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Talks depend on Israel — Syria
DAMASCUS (AFP) — A resumption of peace talks with Israel depends on the Jewish state changing its policy to respect the principle of land-for-peace, Syrian Information Minister Mohammad Salman said Sunday. "When the Israeli government changes its hostile attitude towards peace and respects the basis of the peace process... such as the principle of trading land-for-peace, the way will be open for talks," Mr. Salman said. The minister told Syrian journalists there had been an "increase in tension" in the region after right-wing leader Benjamin Netanyahu took office as Israeli prime minister in June. "A change in government does not exempt states from respecting international norms, as the Israeli cabinet has tried to do since it came to power," he said. Another leader of Syria's ruling Baath Party, Suleiman Kaddah, said that "force does not create peace," adding that "Israeli aggression against the Arabs for half a century has not brought a forced peace or a secure peace."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Armed Forces pledges to continue as nation's shield

King, in message to security services, says there is no room for hostile elements

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai on Monday sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein voicing the allegiance of the Armed Forces to the Hashemite Throne and pledging to offer any sacrifice needed for the defence of the nation.

"The Armed Forces have been trained at the hands of Your Majesty as you continually direct them to follow in the footsteps of the

ancestors and your great grandfather Sherif Hussein Ben Ali and the founder of the Kingdom, the late King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein," said Field Marshal Mirai in his cable, which was in reply to a message from the King to the Armed Forces on Sunday.

He said that the Armed Forces will continue to serve as a shield protecting the nation and its achievements and the Jordanian people's rights.

In his message to the Armed Forces, King Hussein accused "the enemies of the nation of trying to drive the country towards the precipice by acting against peace which means security, stability and unleashing the potential national energies towards construction progress and prosperity."

"These elements stand against normalisation which is the other face of peace, and while pretending to be keen on protecting national interests they stand with all their might against the views of the majority

which demands peace that has been achieved earlier by Egypt and the Palestinians," said the King in the message, which was also sent to the directors-general of the Public Security, General Intelligence and Civil Defence departments.

The letter said: "These elements who have been trying to marginalise Jordan's role and halting its moves in a bid to prevent it from regaining its lost lands and water rights, rendering it exposed to storms are now trying to hold the

state to account for its actions and criticising the Kingdom by claiming that Jordan has not benefited from the dividends of peace."

"What dividends can materialise and what peace can come about without normalisation based on ending the state of war?" the King asked.

Referring to the media, the King said: "Excesses on the part of the media which are gnawing at the very foundation of the achievements of this country

require addressing and correction because we all strive to rise to the appropriate levels and not to allow ourselves to fall to the bottom in the name of free expression."

Thanking the Armed Forces and the security forces for their prompt action to guarantee security and restore stability in the wake of last week's incidents, the King said: "You will always serve as a shield for the nation, protecting Jordan and its people as you struggle to protect the national unity and fight against those who go astray and in defence of the homeland."

The King warned that hostile elements "have no room amongst us."

"If the allegiance of these people is to other countries they can by no means remain acting like sticks breaking the wheel of progress," he said.

He stressed that the reform programme would go ahead and the country would build its institutions and Jordan would serve as a model for others in the region.

Sudanese plane hijacked to Cyprus

LARNACA, Cyprus (AFP) — A Sudan Airways plane with nearly 200 people on board was hijacked to Cyprus Monday while flying from Khartoum to Amman, civil aviation officials said.

The Airbus A-310 carrying 186 passengers and 13 crew landed at 11:10 p.m. (2010 GMT) at Larnaca Airport in southern Cyprus, they said, adding that the hijacker or hijackers had demanded to fly to London.

Christos Georgiadis, a civil aviation official, quoted the pilot as saying that the hijackers, whose identity or number were not immediately known, were armed with dynamite.

"They want to go to London and they say they will surrender there and ask for political asylum," he said. "They have no other demands."

Glascos Xenos, a police spokesman, said the hijackers had threatened to blow up the aircraft if it was not refuelled, "they have asked us for fuel and have threatened to blow up the plane if we refuse," he said.

He said the hijackers claimed to have dynamite and hand grenades aboard the plane. "We don't know the number (of hijackers)," he said. "There is only one speaker but there could be more of them."

Mr. Georgiadis said the authorities "were asking for the release of women and children for humanitarian reasons."

(Continued on page 7)

U.S. resident held in Israel
AKKO, Israel (AFP) — An Israeli judge Monday ordered a U.S. resident placed under "house arrest" in a local hotel pending further investigations into his alleged security offences, court sources said. Beshar Carbiyeh, 27, a Druze who is married to a U.S. citizen and works with the U.S. group Human Rights Watch, was arrested on August 19 during a visit to his home village in the Golan Heights. Israeli security services told his remand hearing Monday that since returning to Israel in June, Tarbiyeh was suspected of having had contacts with "a foreign agent" and of participating in clandestine operations during which Syrian flags were raised over official buildings on the Golan Heights.

King and ex-premiers review developments

AMMAN (I.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday met with former prime ministers to discuss the situation in the Kingdom and other regional and international issues of interest to the country.

Sources told Al Ra'i newspaper that King Hussein stressed during the meeting, which was held at the Royal Court and attended by Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, the need to maintain dialogue as the six former premiers voiced appreciation for the King's leadership.

The former premiers condemned the riots that erupted in some parts of the Kingdom last week and emphasised the need for continued review of the situation in the country.

Former Prime Minister and current Senator Abdul Salam Al Majali told Al Ra'i that the premiers expressed their views in "honesty and candour on all issues" and recognised the King's efforts to bring progress and prosperity to the Kingdom.

Former Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat told Al Ra'i that the meeting "was open and frank during which

PLO says offices closed, Israel must move for peace

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials said on Monday Israel had no right to demand closure of three Palestinian offices in Arab East Jerusalem but it had shut two to deprive Israel's prime minister of any excuse to slow peace moves.

They rejected Israel's charge the offices were carrying out activities of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), which according to an interim peace accord is restricted to working in self-rule enclaves set up under the deal in Gaza and the West Bank.

"When these offices, which they claim are PNA offices, are closed, we will strip Israel of any false excuses to continue freezing the peace process," one official of the PLO said.

"We expect Israel now to reopen talks and to fulfil its commitments," he said.

The PNA meanwhile denied that any dates had been set either for meetings between Yasser Arafat and senior Israeli officials or for the resumption of Israeli-Palestinian political negotiations.

Detainee release continues

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Authorities on Monday released 42 more people detained after last week's riots in southern Jordan after it was found that they were not involved in the violent rampage against government and private property, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

With the latest releases, the number of people freed in the last five days rose to 112, it added.

That left between 80 and 100 people still in detention. Security sources would not provide a precise number but said all those found not to have taken part in acts of violence and sabotage or instigation of the riots would be released.

Officials said those released, some of them members of political parties, took part in the protests.

At least two more journalists were detained in the last two days and police are looking for another in addition to three being held in detention following last week's riots in the south, according to reports and statements sent to press organisations.

Journalists Nahed Hartar and Abdullah Abu Roman were arrested in the last 48 hours, said a statement received from the proposed Al Mitaq weekly.

Another journalist sought for questioning by police, Muwaffaq Mahadin, has gone into hiding, according to sources.

Three other journalists, Al Bilad weekly publisher Nayef Tawara and Al Aswaq reporter Fuad Hussein and Al Ahali chief editor Osama Ranssi, remained in detention after their arrest last week.

A report in the local press said four journalists from Al Bilad, including its chief editor, were referred to court by special prosecutor Jamal Zoubi. The five were identified as Khaled Khasasbeh, the chief editor, and reporters Taha Abu Reden, Rakan Saideh and Malik Athamneh.

According to the report, the four, along with Al Bilad publishers Dar Al Bilad for Press and Publication, face charges of violating the Press and Publications Law by publishing "reports that contradict the spirit of national unity and instigate violence and sedition."

In its edition last week, Al Bilad published stories that were found to be "untrue and unsubstantiated," according to the report.



ROCKET VICTIM: An Afghan nurse puts socks on the stump of a young boy at the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) orthopaedic centre in Kabul. The boy lost his leg when he was hit by shrapnel in a rocket attack on the Afghan capital earlier this year. The centre has treated more than 2,000 people this year, about three-quarters of whom are victims of landmines (Reuters photo)

Economists welcome new liberalisation moves, say more measures are needed

By Ghaila Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Economists on Monday described as "a step on the right direction" the new economic programme Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti outlined Sunday but said that more specific measures need to be taken in order to achieve the required economic improvement.

The prime minister on Sunday announced a series of measures which, he said, the government will adopt to improve Jordan's economic performance, improve the investment environment and cut down on bureaucratic procedures.

Mr. Kabariti said the new measures aimed at improving the performance of the Customs Department, announcing that customs on 492 capital imports will be cancelled to help increase industrial productivity and provide new job opportunities.

Former Minister of Information Jawad Anani, now a member of the Upper House of Parliament, told the Jordan Times that the government's new plan tackled major issues which are vital for the Kingdom to proceed with its economic reform programme and to enable it to compete on the

Syrians take 'defensive stance' in Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian forces in central Lebanon are redeploying into defensive positions in case of Israeli air attacks, Lebanese security sources said on Monday. The sources were commenting on a report in the Beirut newspaper Al Nahar that Syrian vehicles, including tanks, were seen on Saturday night moving from the mountainous Metn region north-east of Beirut and other areas towards the Beirut-Damascus highway. "The change of positions of the Syrian army in the mountains and in the Syrian-Lebanese borders follows fears of an Israeli operation against these forces," Al Nahar quoted informed sources as saying.

Lebanese security sources described the redeployment as a defensive move against feared Israeli air attacks.

Asked about the newspaper report, Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy warned against misinterpreting "training exercises" and said: "As for manoeuvres, we are used to this, following it and we must not get into any panic here."

Syria has an estimated 35,000 troops stationed in two-thirds of Lebanon helping the Beirut government maintain security. They face Israeli troops at a distance of five-10 kilometres at the southern end of the eastern Bekaa Valley. Syria's fears have grown of an Israeli attack on its forces in Lebanon since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took office in May saying he would not return the Golan Heights to Syria.

Mr. Netanyahu appeared to threaten Syria last week when he visited a South Lebanon border strip held by Israeli troops.

He said attacks on the Israelis and their local militia allies by Hizbollah guerrillas, who are supplied through Syria, would cause an escalation of the situation.

Israel's Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper reported last week that tensions with Syria arose largely from "irregular" movements by Syrian army units from the Bekaa Valley to Syria itself.

Fears of an Israeli attack followed recent Israeli

(Continued on page 7)

Bani Sadr to testify again on Sept. 5

BERLIN (AFP) — Former Iranian President Abolhasan Bani Sadr will resume next week his testimony on allegations that Iranian authorities were responsible for the 1992 assassination of Kurdish opposition leaders in Berlin, a justice official said Monday.

Testifying last Thursday and Friday, Mr. Bani Sadr accused Iran's spiritual leader Ali Khamenei and head of state Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani of approving the attack as part of their role in an organised system of state terrorism.

Regional Justice Department spokesman Ruediger Reiff said the two days of testimony originally scheduled had been insufficient to answer all of the prosecution's questions and Mr. Bani Sadr will be questioned again on Sept. 5.

Mr. Bani Sadr was summoned on behalf of the prosecution and the family of the victims of the attack, which took place in the "mykonos" Greek restaurant in September 1992.

Four members of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan (DPK), including Sadeq Sharafkandi, were killed in the attack, which German prosecutors believe was organised by agents of the Iranian state.

The Iranian Kassem Darabi and four Lebanese have been on trial for the murders since October 1993.

Mr. Bani Sadr, the first Iranian head of state after the Islamic revolution, was ousted by the ayatollahs in 1981 and lives in exile in France.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati has rejected as "baseless" evidence by Mr. Bani Sadr at a German court implicating Tehran in the murder of four Kurdish leaders in Berlin, a newspaper said Monday.

"Bani Sadr's lack of credibility is known to all. His testimony was so baseless that even those seeking to discredit Iran at any price did not believe him," Mr. Velayati said, quoted by the English-language daily Iran News.

German federal prosecutor Bruno Jost told journalists that Mr. Bani Sadr's testimony was "important" and "very concrete". The pro-government Iran News accused Germany on Monday of "creating a poisoned atmosphere against the Islamic republic" by "inviting a terrorist and a fugitive to Berlin and providing him with security and publicity."



NEW UNRWA HQ: Palestinian President Yasser Arafat with his wife Suha (right) and Peter Hanson (centre), United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) commissioner general, inaugurate UNRWA's new headquarters in the Gaza Strip on Sunday. The headquarters of UNRWA had moved from Vienna to the Gaza self-rule area last month (Reuters photo)

Jordan confident Egyptian decision on Cairo summit will be in the interests of Mideast peace process

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is going ahead with the assumption that the next Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit will be held as scheduled in Cairo in November, but is wary that regional cooperation and investments in the region would be hard to materialise without tangible progress in the peace process, official sources said Monday.

"We are continuing work on preparing for the summit as scheduled, and we hope that things would be clearer soon," said a source. It was an implicit reference to Egypt's threat to scrap the conference if the right-wing government of Israel did not move to advance the Palestinian track of peace negotiations.

At the same time, Jordan

"also feels that if the political climate in the peace process continues the way it is today, then the probability of investments and regional cooperation would suffer a serious blow," added the source, who did not want to be identified.

The Cairo conference will be the third MENA summit launched in the wake of the breakthroughs in the Arab-Israeli peace process and is seen as a key platform for governments and private sectors of the regional countries as well as other interested nations to interact.

The two earlier summits, in Casablanca, Morocco, in 1994 and in Amman in 1995, set the groundwork for regional cooperation. The creation of a Middle East development bank, a regional business council and a tourism body is expected to be announced at the Cairo summit after

the Amman gathering adopted relevant decisions. Information Minister Marwan Mutasab was asked at his weekly press briefing on Monday how Jordan viewed the Egyptian warning that it might simply scrap the conference.

"We feel confident that Egypt is fully committed to the peace process and advancing it on all tracks," the minister replied. "As such, decisions by the Egyptian government will be taken with that in mind."

Asked whether Jordan had contacted Egypt following the threat by President Hosni Mubarak to scrap the summit, the minister said:

"Jordan has been in touch with Egypt on all issues related to the peace process. Other sources said Jordan was watching the situation carefully and noted that Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu was obviously spurred into action by the Egyptian threat.

The sources noted that Mr. Netanyahu had informed Mr. Mubarak that Israel intended to resume the peace negotiations with the Palestinians in the "very near future."

Israeli radio and television said Sunday that Mr. Netanyahu was planning to meet Palestinian President Yasser Arafat before Sept. 10 in the first face-to-face encounter between the two leaders.

Israeli President Ezer Weizman said Sunday he planned to meet Mr. Arafat before the end of the year.

"These developments are intrinsically related to the peace process, and, hopefully, will put the peace negotiations back on track," said one source.

Allied forces patrolling 'no-fly' zone move to safer HQ

DUBAI (AFP) — Commanders of the U.S. and allied forces enforcing a "no-fly" zone over southern Iraq have moved to more secure headquarters on the outskirts of the Saudi capital of Riyadh, an air force spokesman said Monday.

The headquarters of the Joint Task Force South-west Asia "has completed its move from Riyadh to Eskan village," Major James Stratford told AFP from Riyadh. The move involves 170 senior U.S., British, French and Saudi personnel.

Meanwhile, between 750 and 800 family members of U.S. Department of Defence personnel working in Saudi Arabia have returned to the United States, U.S. embassy spokesman Samir Kuntab said from Riyadh.

The moves were taken as part of U.S. and Saudi efforts to tighten security for 6,000 U.S. military personnel and other allied forces following two deadly anti-American bombings since November.

Maj. Stratford said he expected the 4,000 airmen who enforce the no-fly zone to relocate "soon" to Prince Sultan Air Base at Al Khafj, 30 kilometres south of Riyadh, from bases in the eastern Gulf city of Khobar and the capital, but he gave no date.

Air-conditioned living quarters at Al Khafj were not yet complete, he said. "They're still building the tent city." Crews operating Patriot anti-missile batteries in Khobar are also to move to more secure quarters within the perimeter of the King Abdul Aziz Air Base at Khobar from outside, but the move has not taken place yet, he said.

A recent bombing killed 19 U.S. airmen and wounded hundreds of other people when it exploded on June 25 at a military dormitory in Khobar. Five Americans and two Indians were killed last November when a car bomb blew up the U.S. army centre used to train the Saudi National Guard.

Most family members of around 1,000 U.S. security and military advisers, including those who train the Saudi guard, had to return home because there was not enough space for them in the newer, more secure military quarters.

Meanwhile, around 30 U.S. warplanes have completed their mission to Qatar after training with the Qatari air force and helping to enforce the "no-fly" zone, US officials said Monday.

Maj. Stratford said warplanes based in Kuwait were still flying missions over southern Iraq.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwaiti prison hunger strike ended — official

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwait Interior Ministry official said on Monday a hunger strike at the emirate's central prison has been "contained." The strike has been contained and everything is back to normal, Lieutenant Colonel Adel Al Ibrahim, spokesman of the Interior Ministry said by telephone. The strike by about 600 prisoners, which began on Saturday, was triggered when a grill was erected at the jail's visiting area after the escape of an inmate and to crackdown on drugs smuggling by visiting relatives, deputies said. Asked if the demands of the strikers were met, Colonel Ibrahim said: "We provide all means of care to prisoners." The strikers were pressing for better living conditions and fewer restrictions at its visiting area. Deputy Ali Al Baghli, spokesman of parliament's human rights committee, had said. "Officials are trying to meet the strikers' demands." Mr. Baghli said on Sunday, noting that prison officials were preparing enhanced monitoring measures that would allow for the removal of the metal grill within a month. In January jail inmates burned down a prison hospital in a pre-dawn riot before security forces quelled the disturbances. The riot was caused by anger among drug addicts in the prison over a narcotics crackdown.

Egyptian-Saudi manoeuvres in Red Sea

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian and Saudi naval forces are conducting joint manoeuvres in the Red Sea, government newspapers reported here on Monday. The joint exercises code-named Mirjan-2 started on Sunday and are taking place inside Egyptian territorial waters, said the government daily Al Gomhouriya. Rocket launchers, destroyers and supply vessels are used in the manoeuvres, it said. The two countries staged similar exercises last year.

Gunmen kill two south of Cairo

BENI SUEF, Egypt (AFP) — Suspected fundamentalist gunmen shot and killed two people and wounded a third in a dawn attack Monday, police sources said. The attack took place in the village of Al Diwaya near the town of Beni Suef around 125 kilometres south of Cairo, they said. The identity of the attackers, who fled after the attack, was not immediately known but police suspect they were militants. One of the victims was said to be a guard — a favourite target of fundamentalists who accuse them of collaborating with the authorities. Late Sunday gunmen killed four Coptic Christians and wounded a fifth as they sat outside their home in the southern province of Minya, a hotbed of fundamentalist unrest. Police said they believed the assailants were militants from the fundamentalist Jamaa Islamiyah (Islamic Group).

Opposition leader fakes attack to get arm permit

CAIRO (AFP) — An opposition party chief plotted to fake an attack against himself in an effort to obtain a permit to carry firearms, the official Al-Ahram daily reported on Monday. Mohammad Abdul Aal heads the small Social Justice Party which runs the weekly Al Watan Al Arabi news magazine known for its campaigns against Islamic fundamentalists behind a wave of unrest in Egypt since 1992. According to Al-Ahram he planned, with the help of his driver, to open fire on his car and take pictures of the incident in an effort to show the "inefficiency" of the authorities in clamping down on terrorists and to obtain a weapons permit. But his plan was foiled when a journalist who worked for the party's weekly magazine informed the authorities, the newspaper said. Egypt has recently eased a ban on firearms imposed a year ago as part of a campaign to enable people to defend themselves against Islamic unrest. The right to carry a weapon is considered a status symbol for public figures in Egypt.

Businessman shot dead in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Gunmen shot dead Sunday a businessman supporting warlord Osman Hassan Ali "Atto", a killing the faction described Monday as a political assassination. Faction interior secretary Abdi Hassan Awale Qeybid said the killing in south Mogadishu of 65-year-old Mohammad Amir Awale was carried out by gunmen in a small car backed up by militiamen aboard a battle-wagon of rival warlord Hussein Aided. He is a 34-year-old former U.S. marine who recently took over leadership of his faction from his slain father, General Mohammad Farah Aided. Mr. Awale Qeybid charged that the "plain political assassination" was designed to provoke renewed fighting in south Mogadishu, where hundreds have died in battles between rival factions. In two other killings in south Mogadishu Sunday a taxi driver was shot dead in what appeared to be a targeted killing — his passengers were unhurt and the gunmen did not hijack the car — and another man was shot dead in what witnesses said was a "looting operation."

Sudan halves price of staple food

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan has ordered the price of sorghum, the nation's staple food, halved, the government daily Al Engaz Al Watani reported on Monday.

The decision was taken by an emergency meeting Sunday of the economic sector ministerial committee chaired by the first vice-president, General Al Zubair Mohammad Saleh, the newspaper said.

Sorghum, an edible grain, has risen in recent months to the prohibitive price of about 50,000 pounds (about \$50) per 100-kilogramme

bag. But prices after the harvest and until last February did not exceed 15,000 pounds per 100-kilogramme bags.

The soaring price of sorghum has been blamed on a combination of drought, resulting in shortages, inflation and greed. The annual inflation rate for the year to May was 103 per cent.

The government committee said the price of the staple should not exceed 25,000 pounds a bag and set aside one million bags of sorghum in the eastern state

of Geddaief, the country's main sorghum producer, for sale at the new price in regions experiencing shortages.

Rescue mission fails

A rescue mission bailed out to get the release of six Catholic workers — including three Australian nuns — held by rebels in southern Sudan, an official said here Monday.

The church team, which flew in from Kenya had negotiated with rebels holding the six at Mapourdit,

about 200 kilometres from the Zaire border, and had been allowed to see, but not speak to the group, a foreign ministry spokesman said.

The three nuns were seized last week together with an American priest, an Italian brother and a Sudanese national by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), which is battling Sudanese government forces.

The group was being held in a church compound, the spokesman said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

7:30-8:00 Captain Planet
8:00-8:30 Hor. Shots (Sports)
8:30-9:00 Bob Morrison Show
9:00-9:30 Comedy — ALF
9:30-10:00 News Flash
10:00-10:30 Sciences Cartoon
10:30-11:00 La Vie Devant Moi
11:00-11:30 Game Show — Pyramid
11:30-12:00 Varieties — Les Trans-musicales de Rennes
12:00-12:30 Le Journal
12:30-1:00 Magazine — Ushuaia
1:00-1:30 News Headlines
1:30-2:00 Blossom
2:00-2:30 Documentary — Man Alive
2:30-3:00 Encounter
3:00-3:30 Star Trek — The Next Generation
3:30-4:00 News in English
4:00-4:30 Mission Impossible
4:30-5:00 Sisters

PRAYER TIMES

04:13 — Fajr
05:42 — (Sunrise) Duha
12:42 — Dhuhur
16:23 — Asr
19:42 — Maghreb
21:11 — Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terra Sancta Church

Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Moderate summer weather conditions will prevail with temperatures slightly below average and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds

will be easterly moderate to active and seas calm.

Amman 18/29
Aqaba 25/37
Deserts 17/34
Jordan Valley 23/36

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 30, Aqaba 37 Humidity readings: Amman 46 per cent, Aqaba 47 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Wisam Hazzayn 748563
Dr. Mubkhes Mazaahrah 820425
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayyir 620115
Dr. Mundeir Al Qraishi 779959
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazin Abu Bakir 276852
Al Quds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Ziyad Jghaitin 992991
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Dept. 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue

630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 621111
637777

Fire Brigade

617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints

605880
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Repairs 661101

Jordan Television

773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company

636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity 644281/6
Akhele Maternity 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musaber Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666129/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajirin 777101/3
Al-Bashir 775111/26
Army, Marika 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Anal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:00 Damascus (RJ)
09:15 Sanja (RJ)
10:15 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
10:20 Beirut (RJ)
10:35 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
14:05 New York (RJ)
17:20 Cairo (RJ)
17:30 London (RJ)
17:40 Frankfurt (RJ)
18:25 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
19:45 Toronto, Montreal, Amsterdam (add) (RJ)
02:50 Madrid (RJ)
20:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (add) (RJ)

Other Flights

05:40 London (BA)
09:15 Cairo (MS)
13:40 Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:00 Riyadh (SV)
14:00 Munich (YP)
16:00 Rome (AZ)
16:30 Dubai (EK)
19:35 Amsterdam (KL)
20:20 London (BA)
20:20 Aden (IY)
21:10 Beirut (ME)
21:10 Tel Aviv (LY)
00:55 Bucharest (RO)
03:00 Kuwait (KL)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
09:50 Aqaba (RW)
19:45 Tel Aviv (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:35 Beirut (RJ)
09:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:10 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15 Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
13:00 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
13:10 Paris (RJ)
13:15 Cairo (RJ)
14:05 London (RJ)
14:55 Madrid (RJ)
21:20 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:45 Damascus (RJ)
22:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights

08:45 Beirut (ME)
09:15 London (BA)
10:15 Cairo (MS)
14:30 Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain, Muscat (GF)
15:30 Riyadh (SV)
15:45 Munich (YP)
17:00 Rome (AZ)
17:30 Dubai (EK)
20:45 Kuwait (KL)
21:20 Aden (IY)
23:10 Tel Aviv (LY)
01:55 Bucharest (RO)
04:00 Amsterdam (KL)
Royal Wings (RW) Flights
10:00 Aqaba (Marka Airport) (RW)
20:30 Aqaba (Marka Airport) proceeding to QAIA (RW)

FOR THE TRAVELLER

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Banana (mukhammar) 520/520
Banana (imported) 830/600
Carrot 180/100
Cauliflower 520/350
Cucumber (large) 240/140
Cucumber (small) 240/150
Eggplant 220/150
Fig 330/250
Garlic 650/400
Grapes 380/250
Lemon 540/350
Marrow (large) 250/150
Marrow (small) 460/300
Mulukhiyah 100/60
Onion (dry) 160/90
Okra 900/600
Pea 630/450
Peach 800/500
Pepper (hot) 360/220
Pepper (sweet) 550/350
Pomegranate 350/250
Potato 250/150
String Bean 900/600
Sweet melon 400/280
Tomato 160/100
Water melon 200/140

Home News

Launch of U.N. Human Development Report attempts to delineate economic disparities

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — HRH Princess Basma on Monday called on the decision-makers in the Middle East and Arab region to focus more on efforts to improve the quality of life for people based on linking human development with economic growth.

Princess Basma, an honorary U.N. ambassador for human development, was speaking at the official launch of the 1996 United Nations Human Development Report in Arabic (Petra photo).



HRH Princess Basma and other delegates Monday listen while Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf-Huneidi addresses an assembly to mark the official launch of the 1996 U.N. Human Development Report in Arabic (Petra photo).

Noting that the report, whose launching was delayed from early this month because of organisational snags, highlighted that it was possible for any country to attain reasonable human development parallel to economic growth, Princess Basma said it deserved the attention of planners and decision-makers all over the world.

Highlighting the report's findings in economic growth, employment opportunities, status of women and children, and democracy and human rights, the Princess, in her capacity as a U.N. goodwill ambassador, called on "decision-makers in our region to recognise these facts which are fortified by numbers and statistics and to reconsider the applied basis in development planning."

She also called for a linkage between "development and economic growth on the basis of improving the quality of life for people — all people — to improve individuals wherever they are."

As far as Jordan is concerned, she said, "we feel a great deal of comfort because, despite the difficulties posed by population growth and related issues as well as by limited resources, it is ranked 70 in human development among 174 countries listed in the report."

The U.N. Human Development Report was formally launched in Tokyo and other key cities around the globe on July 17, 1996. The Arabic version of the report was launched in Jordan on Sunday.

In essence the report is warning alarm bells that over the "increasing global polarisation between the rich and poor."

"The rich are amassing wealth while the poor are plunging into destitution," a synopsis of the report says.

Focusing on the theme of social and economic development, the report finds that unemployment and poverty continued to plague nearly half the population of 46 countries which saw positive economic growth.

"While economic growth has raised the income level of 1.5 billion people in 15 countries since 1980, economic decline left a stronger impression, reducing the income of 1.6 billion people in 100 countries," it says.

In a foreword to the report, James Gustave Speth, administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), presents the situation more forcefully: "If the present trends continue, economic disparities between industrial and developing nations will move from inequitable, to inhuman."

The report warns that "sustainable human development and economic growth must go hand in hand in order to avoid the catastrophic consequences of policies and jobless growth" and presents recommendations on development policies aimed at narrowing the gap between the rich and poor.

The report and the related human development index is

perhaps the only scale to assess the status of any country's efforts to improve the quality of life of its people, noted Jorgen Lissner, resident representative of UNDP in Amman.

While acknowledging that the preoccupation by any country on economic growth is an essential segment of any system, Mr. Lissner pointed out that the report has found that there need not be a contradiction between economic growth and human development.

The report cites as examples Malaysia, Mauritius, China and India, where human development went hand in hand with economic growth as a result of focused policies and programmes.

Hazem Behlawi, executive secretary of the Amman-based Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), described the report as "a welcome reminder of the linkage between economic growth and human development."

"If wisely guided, economic growth is the engine for human development," he told the gathering of government and U.N. officials, diplomats, representatives of non-governmental organisations and social workers.

"Without economic growth, it would hardly be possible to improve human conditions. Yet, by itself, economic growth does not guarantee human development."

Dr. Beblawi quoted from the report: "Human development is the end — economic growth is a means."

"We will continue our endeavours" to raise the level of human development, which also involves grass-roots participation in the socio-economic life of the country, the minister said. At the same time, said Dr. Khalaf-Huneidi, "those who ask the country to provide everything for them should change their ideas."

"They should not count on the country to provide everything for them," and instead exert own efforts to achieve self-reliance for themselves, she added.

"We will definitely improve our comprehensive economic growth," the minister said. "This process may be difficult to follow, but it is the best to be pursued."

Government to reduce international call rates by 20% — minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Monday told officials at the Ministry of Post and Communications that international call rates would be reduced by 20 per cent and that the practice of giving priority to telephone line applicants who pay a three-fold fee has been halted, according to Minister Jamal Sarairoh.

The prime minister met with officials at the ministry to review a national programme for adding 600,000 telephone lines to the current telecommunications system.



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Monday met with Minister of Post and Communications Jamal Sarairoh to discuss reduction of telephone fees among other issues (Petra photo).

Following the meeting, Mr. Sarairoh said that Mr. Kabariti emphasised the need for the ministry to accelerate work in providing telephone services to villages and remote areas.

The prime minister was briefed on measures under way to transform the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) into a state-owned company with a capital of JD250 million.

Mr. Kabariti urged officials to facilitate procedures for the installation of such telephone lines and deter possible corruption by workers involved in the installation of telephone lines by rigidly adhering to a maxim of "first come first served."

According to Mr. Sarairoh, the prime minister was briefed on the work of the Postal Savings Fund, other post office services and later inspected the new telephone exchange in the

Tias Al Ali district which was installed recently at the cost of JD10.5 million.

Also Monday, Mr. Kabariti visited the Ministry of Education and met with Minister Abdullah Ensour to discuss the newly initiated project of an applied university.

The applied university is to be established in the Balqa governorate and will serve to supervise the work of the country's community colleges in elevating their academic and vocational standards.

Mr. Kabariti said the new plan will help exceptional students, having completed their community college

courses, pursue university level studies and added that a royal commission will be formed for the overall supervision of the university.

Last Thursday His Majesty King Hussein instructed the government to create such an applied university and appointed his cultural secretary, HRH Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, as chairman of the university's board of trustees.

During his visit, Mr. Kabariti was informed of the ministry's role and measures concerning the admission of students to

various universities.

Dr. Ensour stated that admission to state-owned universities this year will depend purely on applicants' average score in the Tawjihi examinations and that there will be no special lists of preferred students or any other sort of favouritism in the processing of applications.

The Council of Higher Education (CHE) will confine children of Ministry of Higher Education employees to 25 seats and an upper limit of five seats for children of employees in the Ministry of Education, said Dr. Ensour.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Princess meets with young women's group

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Princess Basma Monday received participants of the ninth Jordanian Young Women's Gathering organised by the Ministry of Youth. Princess Basma expressed her happiness to meet with such young women who work for the betterment of the country. The attendees reviewed the programmes and activities of the Queen Alia National Aid Fund for Social Development and other issues concerning women.

Speaker receives German, Canadian ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House Ahmad Lawzi Monday received former German Ambassador Heinrich Reiners on the occasion of the termination of his tour of duty. Mr. Lawzi and Mr. Reiners discussed relations as well as parliamentary cooperation between Jordan and Germany. Mr. Lawzi also received former Canadian Ambassador Michel de Salaberry and discussed Jordan-Canada ties particularly in parliamentary affairs.

Minister says social development key

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Hammad Abu Jamous Monday presided over a meeting held by the ministry's administrative planning committee and said that Jordan's future hinged on self-sufficiency, social development and allegiance to Jordan. Mr. Abu Hammad and committee members discussed several development projects for the coming year, stating that Jordan needs its people to build a strong country and to continue to improve administrative development.

State universities acceptances announced 9,415 students to enroll in upcoming year

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Higher Education (CHE) has accepted 9,415 students at Jordan's six state universities for the 1996-1997 academic year, according to Walid Maani, head of a coordination committee for these universities.

Addressing a press conference Monday, Dr. Maani said that out of these, 10 per cent will go to Arab and foreign universities, 20 per cent to the children of personnel serving with the Jordanian Armed Forces, five per cent to the children of teachers, five per cent to students who finished their secondary education in earlier years, and five per cent for Jordanian students who finished secondary education abroad.

In addition, the state universities will this year retain 1,200 teachers employed by the Ministry of Education. This group of teachers is currently taking special higher education courses to

acquire university degrees. Also, 80 students will be admitted to study fine arts at Yarmouk University and 490 students have been accepted in the evening classes run by these universities.

Dr. Maani said these universities: the University of Jordan in Amman, Yarmouk University in Irbid, Muta University in Karak, the Jordan University of Science and Technology in Ramtha, the Hashemite University in Zarqa and the Al al-Bayt University in Mafraq will also accept 1,200 students who graduated from schools in less developed regions of Jordan.

Dr. Maani said that the lowest average score accepted for admission to these universities this year was 76.5 per cent on the Tawjihi secondary school examination compared with 80 per cent last year.

Jordan to discuss trade in Alexandria

AMMAN (Petra) — Assistant Secretary-General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammad Bani Hani Monday stated that next month's pan-Arab economic meeting in Alexandria will be dedicated to the creation of an Arab region free trade zone dedicated to the development of inter-Arab trade. Jordan is currently involved in negotiations with Oman and Lebanon to conclude free trade agreements with the two paving the ground for gradual overall

exemption of customs duty and other taxes on exchanged goods, he added.

Dr. Bani Hani said Jordan recently initiated a free trade agreement with Algeria and finalised another such accord with Bahrain last year as well as one with Egypt this year and that the agreement with Egypt is currently in its concluding stages.

Jordan is keen on bolstering economic ties with other Arab countries, Dr. Bani Hani said, combined with a concerted Arab economic

stand in dealing with the various regional and international economic blocs.

Referring to Jordan's negotiations regarding a potential partnership with the European Union, Dr. Bani Hani said that negotiations are expected to be completed by early next year and that a partnership agreement would liberalise trade with European member countries within 10 to 12 years.

Referring to Jordan's entry into the World Trade Organi-

sation (WTO), Dr. Bani Hani said that preparations for negotiations are being processed through 15 sectoral committees grouping representatives of the private and public sectors and that negotiations with the WTO are expected to commence in October.

He said that the sectoral committees are researching both the positive and negative aspects which may result from joining the organisation, in order to better advise the Jordanian negotiators.

Economists welcome new liberalisation

(Continued from page 1)

"When you trust the citizen you bring the best in him," Dr. Anani added.

Economist and newspaper columnist Fahed Fanek said foreign countries follow the same plan, adding that random inspection would still be imposed on some imports. Violators, he said, will be punished.

Dr. Fanek described the measures adopted by the government as "excellent" and will tangibly improve the investment environment in the Kingdom.

"The programme was above the businessmen's expectations. Its implementation needs a long time," he said.

Dr. Fanek noted that the government announced the proposed measures following the unrest which arose in the south as a result of the increase in bread prices, saying that this step showed the government's determination to proceed with its economic reform programme.

"It is a balanced step at both the social and economic levels," he added.

The exemption from customs duty extended to 492 capital imports is a good step towards facilitating customs procedures for importers, Dr. Fanek said.

The burden of job creation should turn from the government to the private sector, he said.

Dr. Anani called for the reduction of rates on the local, domestic as well as international telephone calls in order to facilitate business. The current rates have been characterised by businessmen as extremely high.

Addressing another aspect, Dr. Anani stressed the need for the institutionalisation of mechanisms which would provide decision-makers with reliable data on various social and economic issues.

The prime minister also said that the government had drafted several new laws which will help boost the economy and lead to high productivity and growth.

These laws include: a

securities law, a companies law, an anti-monopoly law, a law for protecting national economy which aims at preventing the dumping of products and illegal practices in international trade and a law to create mutual funds.

Yousef Mansour, economic advisor at the Ministry of Planning, described these laws as "profit and dynamic" and would facilitate business in the industry.

"They will speedily to the new industry," he said.

Dr. Mansour said the proposed anti-monopoly law would encourage "more real" competition, help the consumers as well as back the legal system.

Dr. Mansour described the "green channel" plan as an "efficiency gain" which would facilitate exports and imports as well as reduce the cost on investors.

Following Mr. Kabariti's speech late Sunday, businessmen presented their different views on the govern-

ment's proposed measures. President of the Chamber of Industry Khaldoun Abu Hassan supported these procedures which, he said, would remove the economic imbalances in the Kingdom.

He called on the government to reconsider the audit bureau law which, he said, is a negative law whose implementation will adversely affect the state institutions as well as the citizens.

Mr. Abu Hassan added that the official media should support the private sector and give incentives to development and attract investment to the Kingdom to activate the economy.

President of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce Haidar Murad said the new programme would improve Jordan's economic performance and would also solve social and economic problems.

Businessmen also called on the government to reconsider laws pertaining to intellectual property rights, income tax and sales tax.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- FILMS**
 - * Children's film "Mr. Magoo in Sherwood Forest" at the British Council at 5:00 p.m.
 - * Chinese film "The Maker of Sesame Oil" at Abdul Hameed Shmman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 7:30 p.m.
- CONCERT**
 - * Concert by Chico and the Gypsies and the Fiesta Mora at the Roman Amphitheatre at 9:00 p.m.
- SCIENCE WEEK**
 - * Fourth annual science week at the Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid at 9:00 a.m. Transportation available at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00, 8:15, 8:30 a.m.
- FOLKLORE DANCES**
 - * Folklore dances by the Circassian-Folkloric Troupe at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- AL AZRAQ FESTIVAL**
 - * Seminar entitled "The Status of Water in Jordan in General and Al Azraq Oasis in Particular" at ALAZRAQ Charity Association at 5:00 p.m.
 - * Play (Arabic) entitled: "O, My Slipped Disc" at 8:30 p.m.
 - * Book, handicraft, and plastic art exhibition.
- EXHIBITIONS**
 - * Works by artist Abeer Abu Joudih at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman, until Sept. 5.
 - * Abstract (plastic) art by Lina Hani entitled "Relationship Between Man and Nature" at the Housing Bank complex gallery, until Aug. 31.
 - * Abstract (plastic) art by Jordanian artist Khalil Al Kofahi entitled "From Jordan... Man and Charming Nature" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Aug. 29.
 - * "Summer '96" exhibition at Darat Al Fannun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Oct. 8.
 - * Abstract (plastic) art by Hussein Da'esh and Nader Samarah on Jerusalem at the Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Uthaina (Tel. 826932), until Aug. 31.

Former S. Korean leader sentenced to death, Roh jailed for 22 years

SEOUL (AFP) — Former South Korean President Chun Doo-Hwan was sentenced to death here Monday for masterminding a military mutiny and an insurrection linked to the infamous Kwangju massacre.

The Seoul District Court also handed down a sentence of 22 years and six months in jail for Mr. Chun's successor, Roh Tae-Woo, for playing a key role in the mutiny, insurrection and corruption.

The two grey-haired former heads of state, sitting side by side in blue prison garb, received the sentences without expression as relatives of the Kwangju victims screamed "Chun, bastard!" and "bring back my son."

"The accused, Chun, committed very serious crime, in which he mobilised military troops, disrupted the chain of command and destroyed the constitutional order," said Chief Judge Kim Young-Il of the Seoul

District Court. Mr. Chun, 65, and Mr. Roh, 64, were also found guilty of taking bribes of more than \$600 million between them while in office between 1980 and 1993.

The court then pronounced nine of South Korea's top business tycoons guilty of bribing Mr. Roh, ordered four of them jailed and banded the five others suspended sentences. The four businessmen ordered jailed are:

— Choi Won-Suk of Dong-Ah Group, two years and six months;

— Kim Woo-Cboong, chairman of the Daewoo Business Group, two years;

— Chang Jin-Ho of the Jinro Group, two years;

— Chung Tae-Soo of Hanbo, two years.

The five given suspended sentences were Lee Kun-Hee of Samsung Group, Lee Joon-Young of Daelin, Kim Joon-Ki of Dongbu Group and two Daewoo

executives, Lee Kyung-Hoon and Lee Kun.

"Although, while in office, he contributed to stabilising the economy and leaving a precedent of peaceful transfer of power, these deeds cannot offset his crimes," the judge said of Mr. Chun.

But defence lawyers, who had protested against the trial as "basty," said they would appeal. Officials of the four business groups whose chairmen were ordered to prison also said they would bring the cases to the Appeals Court.

The four tycoons will remain free until Supreme Court rulings, but Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh were returned to jail.

Commentators said they expected incumbent President Kim Young-Sam to commute the sentences for the two ex-presidents — his former political allies — in the run-up to the 1997 presidential election. An aide to Kim Young-Sam said the

presidential Blue House would withhold any official comment "until the Supreme Court makes its final decision."

Opposition politicians said the government would grant amnesty for the two ex-presidents before the 1997 poll, to garner votes from Mr. Chun's and Mr. Roh's populous home province of North Kyongsang.

Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh led the slow-paced coup that started in late 1979, capped by an insurrection the following year that led to the bloody massacre of more than 200 pro-democracy protesters in the southern city of Kwangju.

But the court cleared Mr. Chun and four others of the charge of manslaughter in directly ordering the bloodbath, citing lack of evidence.

Residents in Kwangju reacted angrily. "We are all appalled and can't repress our anger at this outrage. The ruling made a mockery of the people and history," the Kwangju Local Assembly said in a statement.

The court fined Mr. Chun 222.3 billion won (\$279 million) and Mr. Roh 283.8 billion won (\$349 million), representing bribes received while in office — Mr. Chun from 1980 to 1988 and Mr. Roh from 1988 to 1993.

Of the 14 co-defendants, all generals, four were given 10 years in prison for playing key roles in the mutiny, four others got eight-year prison terms, three received seven-year terms and two were handed four-year terms. One was acquitted.

Soon after the sentencing, protesters from Kwangju, including three women in traditional white funeral clothes inside the court and others outside, shouted, "bring back my son," "death to all" and "no amnesty."



Former South Korean Presidents Chun Doo-Hwan (right) and Roh Tae-Woo (left), dressed in jailhouse uniforms, face the panel of judges at the Seoul Criminal Courthouse in Seoul Aug. 26. Mr. Chun received 22 years and six months in prison after being found guilty of charges of mutiny and sedition (Reuters photo).

Indonesia blasts human rights watchdogs' call for sanctions

JAKARTA (AFP) — Indonesia Monday warned two U.S.-based human rights watchdogs that have called for sanctions against Jakarta for its crackdown on democracy activists not to mix economic issues with political matters.

The Indonesian government "resents the linkage by any organisation of economic issues to matters that are purely political," a Foreign Ministry press release said.

Human Rights Watch/Asia and the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Centre for Human Rights last week called on Indonesia's major aid donors to cancel trade delegations, impose a ban on arms sales and suspend any planned visits to Jakarta.

The two organisations condemned the Indonesian government's escalating crackdown on students and other political and human rights activists following bloody riots in the capital last month.

"The issues raised by this report are matters to be

resolved by Indonesians," the ministry said, adding Jakarta "strongly resists attempts by foreign interests to challenge its sovereignty by becoming involved in Indonesia's internal affairs."

The two organisations had also called on the World Bank to "express concern over possible new controls on non-governmental organisations," and urged the bank's executives to postpone consideration of new loans.

The World Bank chairs the Consultative Forum on Indonesia (CGI), the largest donor group to Indonesia. The CGI committed more than \$5 billion in assistance to Indonesia this year.

Indonesia considers stability to be critical to its continued political, social and economic development and will do "everything required" to protect freedoms and ensure an environment that enables Indonesians to exercise their rights, the statement said.

President Suharto and his government has stepped up

arrests of youths and students linked to a small left-wing group, the People's Democratic Party (PRD), following the unrest on July 27.

Mr. Subarto and officials have blamed PRD for the riot that left at least four dead and scores injured. They also accused it of being Communist.

PRD leader Budiman Sujatmiko, 27, and more than 100 activists in several cities have been arrested.

Mr. Sujatmiko and Independent Sejahtera Labour Union head Mochtar Pakpahan, who was arrested last month, have been charged with subversion in connection with the riots, a charge that can lead to the maximum penalty of death.

The two human rights bodies have called for their release.

Officials have said that authorities also plan to bring 124 people to court on charges of violence leading to property destruction and injuries during the riot, which carry a maximum penalty of seven years of jail.

Crimean leader flees kidnap ordeal

SIMFEROPOL, Ukraine (AFP) — The speaker of the Crimean Parliament, Yevgeny Suprunyuk, was kidnapped over the weekend but escaped from captivity and was recovering in hospital Monday, his deputy said here.

The kidnapping was "a form of political pressure," Deputy Speaker Anushavan Danielyan told members of the parliament's presidium.

Mr. Danielyan quoted doctors as saying Mr. Suprunyuk's condition was "serious" but not critical.

When Mr. Suprunyuk returned to his Simferopol home late Saturday he saw three people waiting for him — a man in a police uniform, another in civilian clothes and a woman, Mr. Danielyan said.

The woman asked him for his autograph but then drew a pistol and the kidnappers blindfolded him and drove him to a country house in nearby Bakhchisarai district.

Mr. Danielyan said Mr. Suprunyuk was beaten up but the kidnappers did not make any demands, and the next day two of them left the house, leaving him with one armed guard.

Mr. Suprunyuk overpowered the guard

and seized his gun, then fled to Krasnoperkopsk, where he rang parliament early Monday.

Guards had not been on duty outside Mr. Suprunyuk's home at the time he was kidnapped, and security men had not escorted him home as they had always done before, Mr. Danielyan said.

Crimea, whose population is two-thirds ethnic Russian, was banded over to Ukraine in 1954. After Ukraine became independent in December 1991 following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Crimea repeatedly threatened to break away and annex itself to Russia.

In April, Ukraine approved a new constitution for the Crimean peninsula but rejected clauses that would have allowed a separate flag and anthem or anything else hinting at sovereignty.

The constitution enshrined an autonomous status for the mainly Russian-speaking Black Sea territory.

The Ukrainian parliament, however, left out articles that would have created an "internal Crimean citizenship" and symbols of sovereignty such as a flag, an emblem and a separate anthem.

Papers ask whether Charles will wed again

LONDON (R) — Britain's newspapers demanded to know Monday whether heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles plans to marry his longtime lover, Camilla Parker Bowles once his divorce from Princess Diana is completed.

The issue came to a head Sunday when the News Of The World tabloid published a rare photograph of Prince Charles and Ms. Parker Bowles together at a Welsh country manor — even though they were 12 feet (four metres) apart and with two other people.

The picture prompted speculation that Prince Charles or someone else in the royal family was testing the waters to see how the British public would react to a formal relationship between the pair — whether marriage or just being seen together in public.

"Should be wed Camilla?" asked the popular Sun tabloid in a front-page headline, urging its readers to vote in a telephone poll.

"Camilla should be queen. After all, she's earned it,"

the newspaper commented. "She is the only one of the love triangle not to wash her dirty linen in public. Both Prince Charles and Princess Diana made TV confessions about their adultery."

"Make up your mind, Charles," urged the Daily Mirror in a similar treatment of the story. It too invited readers to cast votes on special telephone lines.

It said Prince Charles must decide "if he will make an honest woman of Camilla and possibly lose the throne."

Prince Charles and his estranged wife Princess Diana became officially divorced on Aug. 28.

He admitted in a television interview that he had been unfaithful to the woman who wed him as a virgin in 1981, but never named his mistress and said it only happened after the marriage had irretrievably broken down.

But Ms. Parker Bowles, divorced last year, had been a regular companion and was one of his first loves.

The News Of The World

said it had been tipped that Prince Charles and Ms. Parker Bowles would be together at the Welsh house.

Buckingham palace denied it had connived at the photo opportunity and threatened to act against the tabloid.

"We would not give approval to such intrusive photographs being taken of the Prince of Wales in his private time," a spokeswoman said.

"Over the next few days we will be considering courses of action we might take." In the past the royal family has approached the self-regulatory Press Complaints Commission.

A survey published in the Sunday Telegraph showed that bishops and clergy were strongly against Prince Charles, who is in line to become head of the Church of England, re-marrying.

A royal family spokeswoman also headed off other rumours published in the Sunday newspapers, which often concentrate on royal stories in the slow summer news season.

U.K. court orders stay on operations video

LONDON (R) — Britain's Health Ministry won a court injunction Sunday

hannan distribution of a commercial video that shows gory close-up details of more than 20 real operations such as eye surgery and removal of the bowel. Health Minister Gerry Malone said in a statement he would investigate whether the video — which had been due to be released through video rental shops from Monday — had breached patients' right to confidentiality.

"On the information we have got, the acquisition and use of this material is in direct conflict with the guidance that was issued on patient confidentiality to the national health service in March of this year," Mr. Malone said. He said a full court hearing would be held Wednesday. The British Medical Association (BMA) said patients could be put off having potentially life-saving operations after watching Everyday Operations, a 53-minute collection of surgeons' training videos. "We urge people not to watch this video," said Dr. Vivian Nathanson, head of the BMA's Ethics Committee.

"It is deeply distasteful and very worrying. This is the first time we have heard of such a video." Eduction, the company responsible, also sparked controversy earlier this year by releasing Executions, a video showing a number of real executions. It was later withdrawn. Eduction spokesman David Donoghue denied the operations video would attract morbid audiences seeking voyeuristic excitement, saying it was an informative film which would enlighten the public about the real work of hospitals. Other operations featured in the film include shoulder, hip and knee replacements, gall bladder and appendix removals, brain surgery and varicose vein treatments.

Belgium's speed of the race was over. Belga News Agency reported that police checked more than 3,000 drivers and booked 222 for speeding on their way home after the race. Some were clocked doing 180 kilometres an hour, Belga said. Schumacher, driving a Ferrari, won the race in 1 hour 28 minutes 15.125 seconds at an average speed of 208.442 km/hour (130 m.p.h.).

Madonna goes down-market in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (R) — Pop singer Madonna has paid \$2.7 million for a 1920s home in Los Angeles, a property about half the size of the nearby residence she has been trying to sell, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday.

"She's scaling down," the paper quoted a source as saying. Her new purchase boasts a 325 square-metre main house with five bedrooms and a two-bedroom guest house. The recently restored Mediterranean-style house is in the tree-lined suburb of Los Feliz, and had been listed at \$3.2 million. Her current 650-square-metre home that overlooks the Hollywood sign has been on the market for some time, most recently at \$6.5 million, the paper said. Madonna reportedly spends most of the time in her Miami residence, and she also has a place in Manhattan. She is currently awaiting the birth of her first child and the December release of her new movie, Evita.

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"She's scaling down," the paper quoted a source as saying. Her new purchase boasts a 325 square-metre main house with five bedrooms and a two-bedroom guest house. The recently restored Mediterranean-style house is in the tree-lined suburb of Los Feliz, and had been listed at \$3.2 million. Her current 650-square-metre home that overlooks the Hollywood sign has been on the market for some time, most recently at \$6.5 million, the paper said. Madonna reportedly spends most of the time in her Miami residence, and she also has a place in Manhattan. She is currently awaiting the birth of her first child and the December release of her new movie, Evita.

Belgium's speed of the race was over. Belga News Agency reported that police checked more than 3,000 drivers and booked 222 for speeding on their way home after the race. Some were clocked doing 180 kilometres an hour, Belga said. Schumacher, driving a Ferrari, won the race in 1 hour 28 minutes 15.125 seconds at an average speed of 208.442 km/hour (130 m.p.h.).

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A South Korean man who had a relative killed during the bloody 1980 Kwangju massacre, is arrested at the entrance to the Seoul Criminal Courthouse by police after shouting "Execute Chun, and Roh for the Kwangju massacre" in Seoul Monday (Reuters photo).

new political group sees mass action for democracy

HONG KONG (AFP) — A radical political group was launched in Hong Kong Monday, hoping to catalyse mass opposition to Beijing's plans for the territory after it reverts to Chinese sovereignty next year.

"We are called The Frontier because we are at the forefront of the fight for democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Hong Kong," said the party's founder and leader, Emily Lau, a legislative councillor.

Ms. Lau said the new group was not being launched as a political party, but would reach out to all of Hong Kong's 6.3 million people, seeking mass action to forward its goals.

"In 1989 a million people marched" in Hong Kong, Ms. Lau said referring to demonstrations following China's crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Beijing. "Don't underestimate the power of the people."

The Frontier's manifesto says: "At a time when the influence of the Chinese government is mounting, silence, withdrawal and passivity will be taken as a sign

of weakness and resignation."

The inevitable result, the group said, would be that Hong Kong under Chinese rule "will come under the control of those who scramble for power under the Chinese regime. Public interest will be sacrificed."

The group opposes China's plans for Hong Kong after it takes control here next July. Beijing has vowed to scrap Hong Kong's elected legislature, introduce new laws on sedition and secession and choose a replacement parliament and chief executive through a 400-member Selection Committee.

The China-formed Preparatory Committee, which is handling Hong Kong transitional affairs, is currently holding a month-long nomination process to form the Selection Committee.

Founding Frontier members Monday accused Hong Kong's largest political party, the Democrats, of failing to do enough for Hong Kong, and of wavering in its opposition to China's plans.

"They don't seem to be

standing by their principles," said co-founder Harold Ko. "They are talking about taking part in the selection process for the chief executive when their own party platform calls for universal suffrage."

Sitting on The Frontier's Executive Committee, Democratic Party member Lau Chin-Shek said there was no contradiction in Democrats joining the new group.

"We just want to speed things up," he told a meeting of around 70 supporters and almost as many journalists. "The Democrats are free to join."

He added that The Frontier would work towards its key goals of democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and not get embroiled in day-to-day politicking on civic affairs.

"If radical means speaking out, supporting universal suffrage and human rights and the rule of law and being prepared to stand up and be counted, then we are happy to be called radical," he said.

Emily Lau, a former journalist, added that if the group had been set up in the

West they would probably be deemed to be just right-of-centre.

"Here we might be seen as radical. That shows the extent of the problem," she said.

Fellow committee member Elizabeth Wong, another of the five legislators to sign up with the group, said they were seeking talks with Chinese leaders based on "mutual respect."

Members of the Xinhua News Agency, China's de facto consulate in Hong Kong, had been invited to an inauguration party, she said. "We don't know whether they will come."

Also attending the meeting was a representative of international rights group Amnesty International, who said they were curious because of the group's avowed support for human rights in Hong Kong.

The Frontier has yet to decide on tactics to achieve its objectives but is considering a campaign to nominate an alternative chief executive for the post-1997 Hong Kong government.



Members of the new political alliance, The Frontier, join hands in a cake cutting ceremony during the group's inauguration in Hong Kong Monday. The group insisted that "The Frontier" is not a formal political party and would not split the democracy movement in the British Colony. Hong Kong reverts to China at midnight of June 30, 1997. At centre is Hong Kong legislator and spokesperson of the group, Emily Lau and to her left is another lawmaker Lau Chin Shek (Reuters photo).

Business Research be considered

Various small advertisements and notices on the right margin, including "Business Research be considered" and "Jordan Times".

JORDAN TIMES

JORDAN

FOR RENT

Happy Days

U.K. court orders stay on operation video

LONDON (R) — British Home Secretary Jack Straw has ordered a stay on the operation of a video recording system in the House of Commons. The system, which was installed in 1994, was used to record the proceedings of the House of Commons. Straw said that the system was "not fit for purpose" and that it was "not reliable".

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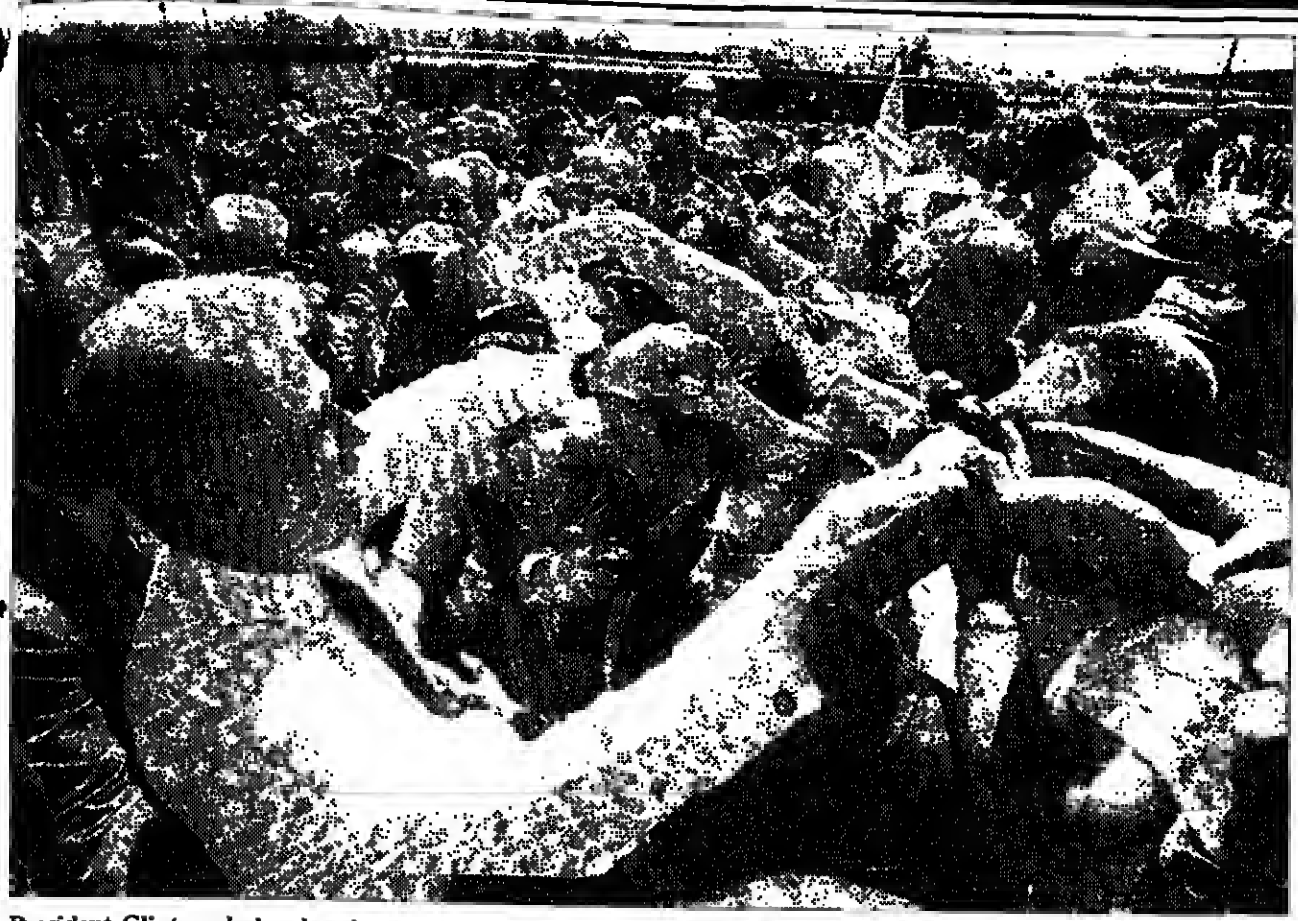
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President Clinton shakes hands with the crowd at the old C&O train station as he kicked off his '21st Century Express' campaign from Huntington, West Virginia Sunday (Reuter photo)

Clinton focuses on crime, train tour picks up steam

COLUMBUS, Ohio (R) — President Bill Clinton tries to add steam to his political express Monday by unveiling a plan to keep pistols out of the hands of people convicted of spousal or child abuse.

Mr. Clinton, in the midst of a colorful, made-for-television train trip to the Chicago Democratic Convention, will propose expansion of the so-called Brady Law, which requires a five-day waiting period for handgun purchases in a speech at the Columbus Police Academy, aides said.

The initiative will be coupled with a renewal of Mr. Clinton's oft-stated call for a ban on "cop-killer" bullets, which can penetrate bulletproof vests, and is meant to show he is tough on crime and sensitive to the concerns of women voters.

Mr. Clinton, travelling by train with his daughter, Chelsea, 16, while his wife Hillary has a busy convention schedule in her old hometown, plans to grab headlines with a new proposal every day of his trip. Tuesday's will deal with education, Wednesday's with the environment.

His focus on crime was designed to tie into the opening session of his party's convention, which features a speech by Sarah Brady, wife of former White House spokesman James Brady, who inspired the gun law.

Mr. Brady is wheelchair-bound because of the gunshot wounds he suffered when John Hinckley Jr. tried to kill then-President Ronald Reagan in front of the Washington Hilton Hotel in 1981.

Mr. Clinton, campaigning through five states with 64 of the 270 electoral votes needed to win the presidency on his way to Chicago, is on the trip to try to energize grassroots support for his reelection bid.

He boarded his "21st Century Express" for the four-day whistlestop in Huntington, W.Va., Sunday and rolled through parts of Kentucky before reaching Ohio. His train will also roll through Michigan and Indiana.

"I'm going on a train, because I want to see the people like you that I've been working for, for four years," Mr. Clinton told cheering West Virginians as he set out on his journey.

President Clinton lashed out Sunday at what he called an outrageous Republican abuse of power and smear campaign against his associates over the Whitewater affair, saying their lives had been "wrecked by pure, naked, raw politics."

In an emotional attack on his Republican opponents, Mr. Clinton said not a shred of evidence of wrongdoing had been found against him or the first lady in the Whitewater tangle of financial dealings.

Mr. Clinton vowed to help pay the legal bills of friends and associates forced to defend themselves from charges of financial misdeeds.

"I think it is outrageous that these middle class people have had their lives wrecked by pure, naked raw politics," Mr. Clinton said in an interview with CNN Television during a stop in Kentucky on his four-day campaigning train trip.

"I'm going to help pay their legal bills if it's the last thing I ever do, and I stay healthy," Mr. Clinton said.

A number of associates of Mr. Clinton when he was governor of Arkansas and others who have worked with him since he became president have faced charges of impropriety linked to Whitewater.

Mr. Clinton business partners James and Susan McDougal and former Arkansas Governor Jim Guy Tucker were convicted in May of fraud and conspiracy charges.

Susan McDougal was sentenced to two years in jail. Mr. Tucker resigned and was put on probation and fined. James McDougal will be sentenced in November.

Two other Arkansas allies of the Clintons have been acquitted of violating banking laws to help Mr. Clinton's 1990 campaign for reelection as state governor, a case that touched several other Clinton friends, including close adviser Bruce Lindsey.

"Do I feel terrible about the completely innocent middle class people who have been wrecked financially by this? Certainly do. I didn't abuse them and it's high time that the people who did, take responsibility for what they do," Mr. Clinton said.

Without mentioning Whitewater special prosecutor Kenneth Starr by name, Mr. Clinton said there had been an abuse of the law allowing a special counsel to be appointed to investigate alleged wrongdoings in the executive branch.

Mr. Starr, a Republican, has been investigating the Whitewater affair for about two years.

Mr. Clinton also criticized the aggressive questioning of White House witnesses during the investigation by Senate Whitewater Committee Chairman Alfonse D'Amato.

"And still they stand up and smear and smear," Mr. Clinton said of the Republicans.

Mr. Starr has said he is continuing his investigation of the Clintons. The president says the investigation, initiated by the Republican-controlled Congress, is politically driven and that he and his wife are innocent.

"There has still not been a single solitary shred of evidence of wrongdoing by me, by my wife, by her law firm, by my administration. And if you look at the evidence in the D'Amato committee of my record as governor, witness after witness after witness after witness said this man did not do wrong," Mr. Clinton said.

Lebed seeks backing for Chechenya peace accord

GROZNY, Russia (Agencies) — Russian security chief Alexander Lebed met Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin Monday to seek top-level backing for his peace plans in the break-away Chechen Republic.

A spokesman said Gen. Lebed was also ready to meet President Boris Yeltsin, but the president's office said it had no information about Mr. Yeltsin's plans for Monday.

ITAR-TASS news agency said Gen. Lebed and Mr. Chernomyrdin discussed the results of Gen. Lebed's trip to Chechenya, proposals put forward by separatist leaders and the political settlement of the conflict in a 90-minute meeting.

Finding a political settlement for the 20-month-old Chechen conflict is the trickiest part of Gen. Lebed's peace mission to the rebel region. The rebels seek an independent state but Moscow officials say the region must stay part of Russia.

Fighting flared earlier this month after the separatists, determined to make a political point before Mr. Yeltsin was inaugurated for a second term in office on Aug. 9, seized much of the Chechen capital Grozny on Aug. 6.

They still control much of the town and have said they are determined not to give in.

Grozny appeared calm Monday, although Interfax News Agency said one Russian soldier was shot dead by a sniper and Russian positions came under fire 16 times.

A plume of black smoke still hung over the city's oil plant, set ablaze in earlier fighting.

"This was, perhaps, the quietest night in the last year and a half," TASS quoted an Interior Ministry spokesman as saying.

Interfax said that at least 450 Russian soldiers had been killed in the August fighting and many were still missing.

Calm descended on Grozny last week after Gen. Lebed and Chechen Chief of Staff Aslan Maskhadov agreed a ceasefire, setting up joint patrols in Grozny and withdrawing Russian troops from some areas.

Gen. Lebed, who returned to Moscow Sunday after suspending talks with Commander Maskhadov, said then he would try to nail down the legal technicalities of proposals for Chechenya's political future during his Moscow visit.

Both sides say the ceasefire has been broadly respected, although Russian military commanders say separatists seized guns and ammunition from a column of Russian soldiers Saturday.

They say talks with Commander Maskhadov and Russian Commander Vyacheslav Tikhomirov will only be resumed after the weapons are returned.

The rebels have said a renegade group seized the arms. But Interfax, quoting the separatist command, said almost all the weapons had been collected and they would be handed over Monday, paving the way for talks to resume in Chechenya.

A rebel spokesman said Moscow had accepted the separatists' demand for a referendum, although possibly not for some years.

The rebels say a free vote would back their goal of independence.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said voters might one day decide Chechenya's future but stressed in a television interview Sunday that Chechenya should stay an integral part of Russia.

"The people must decide. As they decide, so it will be," he told Russian Television.

But he added: "Chechenya should be part of the Russian Federation. That's simple. But when, how and with what status? It is essential not to decide that now."

Meanwhile, the deputy premier of the pro-Moscow Chechen government said Monday that the negotiations between Gen. Lebed and separatist leaders amounted to a coup d'etat.

"What is happening today in Chechenya, if you want to talk about diplomatic manners, is an open coup d'etat," Alkhazur Isov told a press conference in Moscow.

"Should they sit down at a negotiating table with the supporters of (former separatist leader) Dzhokhar Dudayev and sideline the legitimate power, put in place by Russia itself?" Mr. Tskayev asked.

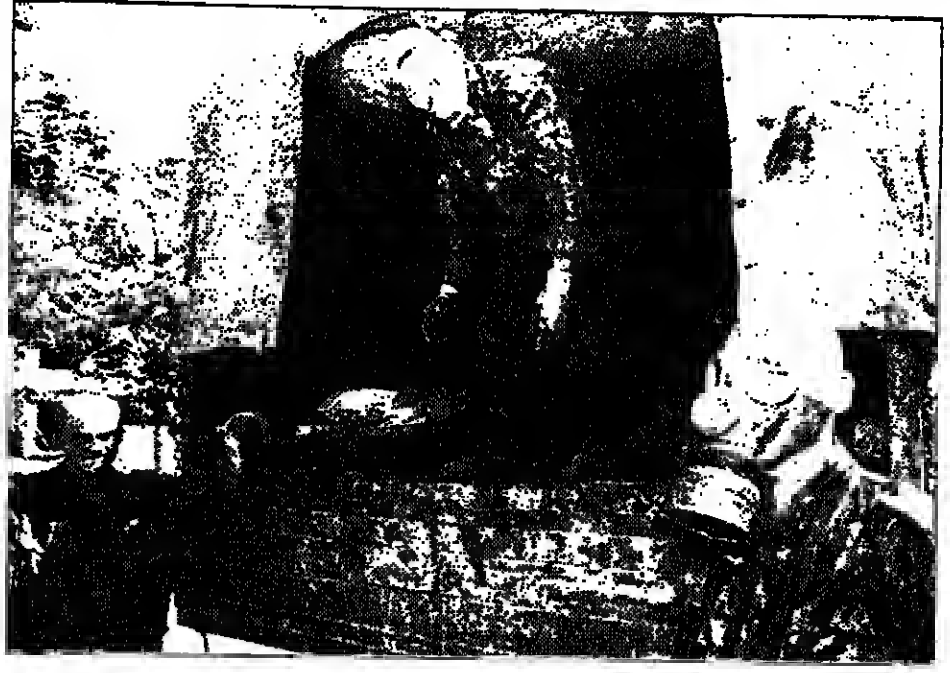
The current Chechen government took office following elections in December organised by the Russians who wanted to give legitimacy to the administration of pro-Russian leader Doku Zavgayev.

Those elections and the subsequent parliamentary poll in June were boycotted by the separatists and their supporters, who make up the large majority of the electorate. The vote was further criticised by observers for numerous violations.

Most of Mr. Zavgayev's government are at present in Moscow, or out of Chechenya, according to Interfax which cited the premier's private secretary. Many of them fled the breakdown republic fearing separatist vengeance.

Several government officials have been reported kidnapped, and some have been executed by the rebels, government sources said.

Mr. Zavgayev's entourage said Culture Minister Ilyas Sigauri had been kidnapped Monday. ITAR-TASS agency said.



Two Russian soldiers wear gas masks while loading the bodies of comrades onto a truck. The Russian soldiers were killed during street fighting last week in the Chechen capital Grozny (Reuter photo)

Dole vows all-out war on drugs as 'moral terrorism'

PALOS PARK, Ill. (R) — Campaigning within shouting distance of Chicago on the eve of the Democratic National Convention, Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole Sunday vowed an all-out war on illegal drugs which he declared as the "moral equivalent" of terrorism.

Harsely attacking the White House for what he called a "don't worry, be happy" stance on drugs, Sen. Dole promised to deploy all resources necessary to fight drugs — including the army, the navy, the Coast Guard, the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Guard.

Citing the study released last week that showed that drug abuse has doubled since President Bill Clinton took office, Sen. Dole blasted what he characterised as a "don't worry, be happy" attitude of the Democratic administration.

"This president has been known not for his eloquence but his silence," he said. "This administration replaced the unambiguous message of 'just say no' with this message: 'just say nothing.'"

"We will treat drugs for what they are — the moral equivalent of terrorism," Sen. Dole said. "The terrorism of drugs destroys our young people and hijacks America's future."

Breaking with a tradition in which candidates do not venture close to their opponents' nominating conventions, Sen. Dole made the



Republican U.S. presidential nominee Bob Dole and running-mate Jack Kemp wave to the crowd together at the start of a campaign rally in Portland, Oregon. Sen. Dole campaigned in Illinois and Oregon on the eve of the Democratic National Convention (Reuter photo)

speech at a picnic and rally in a park in affluent suburbs southwest of Chicago, where the Democratic convention begins Monday. Sen. Dole campaigns in Oregon later Sunday, and starts a working vacation in Santa Barbara, California, Monday.

In a speech that dwelt far more on stopping drug traffic than on prevention and education, Sen. Dole noted the traditional reluctance to use the military to confront domestic problems but said drugs come from abroad and are thus not only a home-grown problem.

He said that if elected he would call on his defence secretary and military leaders to draw up battle plans for the war on drugs, including contingency plans for interdiction along the southern U.S. border.

"Now, one would hope that such interdiction by U.S. military forces would never need to take place. But just as U.S. combat readiness is a deterrent to those who would challenge us in a war, so will the knowledge that all the capabilities — of our federal government will be used to reduce the flow of drugs across our border if necessary," he said.

In an oblique reference to recent reports that some White House staffers had used drugs in the past, he said his own stance would be "zero tolerance" from the White House on down to every workplace and school in America.

"In the Dole administration we're going to return to what works — a clear and forceful policy of zero tolerance. That's zero tolerance. Zero tolerance for drug smugglers, zero tolerance for drug pushers. Zero tolerance for drugs in the workplace and zero tolerance for illegal drugs period. Zero. Zero. Zero."

Feeling stronger, Mother Teresa scribbles notes

CALCUTTA (R) — Mother Teresa scribbled short notes to doctors and well-wishers Monday as the renowned missionary slowly gathered strength in her fight against malaria and a faltering heart, doctors said.

"She is a shade better compared to yesterday," Dr. S.K. Sen told reporters at Calcutta's Woodlands Nursing Home where the 85-year-old Roman Catholic nun has been under treatment since last Tuesday.

Dr. Sen said Mother Teresa, who cannot speak because a tube has been inserted in her throat, was feeling well enough to scribble short letters and answer questions in writing.

"Now she is scribbling notes and letters," he said.

With a gentle wave of her hand Sunday, Mother Teresa blessed a group of visiting nuns from her Missionaries of Charity.

Known as the "saint of the gutters" for her devotion to the poor and destitute, Mother Teresa was admitted to the hospital last Tuesday with a high fever and severe vomiting.

The fever has abated and the vomiting stopped but doctors said her heart continued to beat irregularly. She remained on an artificial respirator and was still being drip-fed.

"Mother Teresa is fully conscious today," said Dr. J.C. Ghosh, the chief cardiologist treating the missionary. He said doctors had intermittently removed the respirator Monday in an effort to wean her from its support.

Dr. Ghosh said Mother Teresa was no longer running a temperature. Her heart rate was still irregular, but her heart failure, which began shortly after she entered hospital, was under control, he said.

"The heart problem is an extension of her old heart disease. The fever and chest infection have precipitated it," Dr. Ghosh said.

Mother Teresa, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, was fitted with a heart pacemaker one decade later.

Asked when the respirator would be removed, Dr. Ghosh said: "It is still a million-dollar question. She is still under close observation. We cannot give you any time-frame."

Officials said she was able to breathe for about two minutes without the respirator.

Sister Judith, a member of the Missionaries of Charity, the order founded by Mother Teresa in 1949, said Monday her improvement was "a gift of our prayers."

"Prayers can bring miracles," the nun told Reuters.

Mother Teresa's 86th birthday falls on Tuesday. Members of her religious order began the birthday celebration Monday.

"Mother does not believe in celebrating birthdays but we like to make it an event. We celebrate it a day before," said Sister Jovita, in charge of Shanti Daan (Gift of Peace), Mother Teresa's home for mentally ill women.

Children from Roman Catholic schools sent flowers and colourful cards to Mother Teresa ahead of her birthday.

The Communist chief minister of West Bengal state, Jyoti Basu, sent her a bouquet of red roses with a card saying, "I wish you a speedy recovery and a long life in the service of the people."

India's Hindus protest pilgrimage disaster

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — Thousands of Hindus took to the streets in Kashmir Monday as anger mounted over the deaths of 160 pilgrims during a Himalayan trek beset by blizzards and driving rain.

As India mourned the tragedy, an opposition leader alleged in parliament that 500 people died during the disastrous pilgrimage, while other MPs blamed the government's lack of planning for the tragedy.

Thousands of angry Hindu pilgrims who failed to make it to the sacred Amarnath Cave in the Himalayas staged noisy protests in the Kashmiri town of Pahalgam, carrying banners and shouting slogans.

Some tried to torch a police station in the town, a mountain-top resort 42 kilometres from the Amarnath Cave, believed to be the home of the Hindu god of death, Shiva.

About 8,000 people were rescued from the snow-covered peaks northeast of Srinagar over the weekend after blizzards and lashing rain turned the pilgrimage into a death march. About 60,000 were stranded at one stage.

The pilgrims, who returned to Pahalgam after the army launched a massive rescue operation over the weekend, complained of food and medicine shortages in their camps.

"There is an acute shortage," said Ramesh Kumar, a pilgrim from New Delhi.

"We have not been provided even a single blanket or (any) medicine despite our repeated requests. You have to bribe a policeman even at a time of crisis," Other pilgrims alleged.

that essentials were sold at high prices on route to the shrine, and local officials had refused to check the traders.

The pilgrims' protests were echoed in the Indian parliament where opposition MPs lashed out at the government and said the deaths took place because of poor planning.

Murli Manohar Joshi of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) alleged that up to 500 people might have died in the disaster.

Mr. Joshi, a former home minister, did not say how he reached this figure, but one of his colleagues, Jaswant Singh, had earlier put the number of deaths at about 400. Indian officials say only 160 have died.

Despite the unprecedented scale of the tragedy which forced New Delhi to call off the pilgrimage, some 650 stubborn Hindu pilgrims refused to be evacuated and remained on two Himalayan Mountains in Kashmir.

Kashmir officials said here that two groups of pilgrims were still holed up on the Panchtarni and Seshnag peaks close to the Amarnath Shrine, located at 3,380 metres above sea level.

"These people do not want to come out," an official told AFP.

"They say they want to trek to the Amarnath Cave, come what may."

However, fears of a higher death toll receded after it was confirmed that most of those stranded had been evacuated by military helicopters to safety.

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Economic dialogue

IN ITS drive to improve the performance of the economy, the government is doing well by involving the private sector in the search for solutions that can put the economy back on track.

The meeting between the prime minister, Abdul Karim Kabariti, and representatives of the private sector on Sunday was a good step in that direction. This dialogue should aim at identifying a clear course of action for the economy and the policies that will be adopted to attain the goals of economic development and growth.

Narrowing the budget deficit, removing subsidies, lowering inflation and achieving some numerical targets should only be initial steps towards the aspired reforms, which must be comprehensive and conducive to steady and sustainable growth in the future.

It would be courageous to admit that, until now, the Kingdom has no clear economic identity and programme, other than the ones prescribed to us by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. Our resources are spread over so many outlets with no obvious priority area. This situation cannot continue and the only solution is to adopt a well identified economic system that guides all the business activities in the Kingdom.

Jordan will not be the first Arab country to walk this path. Algeria took such a bold step last month by forming a ministerial team to moderate a national dialogue on the state of the economy. Egypt chose a different approach last year, when President Hosni Mubarak appointed an economic team to run the country as economic issues relegated political issues to lower rungs on the national agenda.

By putting the Kingdom on a clear, steady, well-defined and publicly accepted economic course through involving the private sector and encouraging its representatives to pool their criticisms and recommendations into a single "cooking pot" will achieve major results in our quest for an efficient and productive economy.

There is no denying that the economy has done fairly well since the economic reform programme was adopted in 1989. But this success, as has been measured in macro terms, has not been translated into benefits at the micro level. Current efforts to improve the economy should target macro objectives like narrowing the deficit and attaining growth. But they should also take note of micro elements which directly affect the people and their lives.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE IMBALANCES in the Kingdom's economic policies over the past 28 years were a sure recipe for bankruptcy requiring a 180-degree reversal to put matters right and address the faulty situation, said Fahd Al Fanek, a writer for Al Ra'i. In the past two or three decades, the public sector had dominated economic life as the country depended mainly on external aid from the West and then from the Gulf states, and also in loans from different sources, he said. This was coupled by direct government intervention in economic matters and economic decisions as well as government subsidies of a range of commodities from fuel to bread, according to the writer. The present government policies aim at executing an economic restructuring programme designed to control expenditure, remove the imbalances, open the doors for Jordan to enter world markets, achieve monetary stability and introduce security networks to protect the less fortunate sectors in society, said the writer. It is regrettable, he said, to see that certain elements are still determined to fight economic reform despite their knowledge that the old systems have proved to be futile.

THE EXISTING landlord-tenant law is outdated and has been causing social problems in Jordan as most Jordanians realise, and the time has come for the concerned authorities to step in and address the situation, said Mohammad Daoud, a writer for Al Dustour. The present law favours the tenant at the expense of the landlord and provides protection to the tenant to such a degree that tenants consider themselves the real owners of their rented residences, according to the writer. He said that such situation is bound to scare away investors in the construction sector, with negative consequences to the country's economy at a time when the government is calling on the private sector to invest in housing schemes. What is required is fixing the rates of rent of buildings depending on their age, their sizes and amendments to the existing law, he said. Reas, he added, should be fair to the landlords and the tenants alike, and would eventually end disputes that in some cases have led to regrettable incidents.

The View from Fourth Circle

The elusive route from economic stress to a credible political culture

By Rami G. Khouri

The heavy emphasis this week on the need to review and strengthen our domestic political system, in the wake of the recent demonstrations and riots that took place in some southern cities, highlights the political nature of the problem at hand, rather than its economic dimensions. Two noteworthy points strike me about the political aspects of this issue. The first is the almost total absence of the Islamists from the entire scene during the last several weeks. The second is the rapid, absolute, and very sincere manner in which the entire political and social culture pledged allegiance to His Majesty King Hussein and the Hashemite leadership.

On the first point, it should have become obvious by now to all that we do not have a credible political opposition in Jordan. We have youthful and aspiring democratic systems, a parliament, political parties, an ideological spectrum, an often lively press — but we do not have a credible opposition that can engage the government in thoughtful debate and reach reasonable compromises leading to effective policy decisions. The Islamists were the only major group in the 1980s that openly challenged the government, and their challenge to a very top-heavy system helped to spur the liberalisation and democratisation trends that have since ensued.

But, the Islamists continue to fade as a meaningful opposition, for reasons that historians will document for us in due course. Their poor performance in the parliamentary broad and subsidies debate was the final expression of their growing weakness. Unable to challenge the government effectively, and simultaneously unable to forge a meaningful coalition with lefties, nationalists, independents and others, the Islamists acted in a politically immature and weak manner — they took their ball, refused to play, and went home.

By boycotting parliament and calling for the prime minister's resignation, the Islamists proved that they are unrealistic and weak politicians, and poor political strategists. To challenge the Kabariti government, as the Islamists did, after it and its subsidies policy had been repeatedly and publicly reconfirmed by King Hussein, is political naivete and foolhardiness of cosmic proportions. The Islamists' continuing demise is a shame, and a loss for Jordan, because it removes from the scene a group that had all the ingredients for a formidable political force — indigenous credibility with the people, legitimacy in the eyes of the prevailing power structure, and powerful roots in the universal message of morality and religion. On the three most important foreign policy issues of recent years — the Madrid peace talks, relations with Iraq, and peace and normalisation with Israel — the Islamists achieved no

gains, and steadily lost public credibility and support.

This season, they isolated themselves from the debate on bread subsidies, and in the following public events they were isolated by the political system as a whole. Most remarkable is not their singular absence as a successful opposition. It is the total absence of any credible opposition in the country. This is a serious shortcoming that has to be analysed and rectified, if our aspirations for a democratic, progressive and human political culture are to materialise.

Why do we have this situation? It partly relates to the second factor, manifested in the outpouring of allegiance to King Hussein. The fact is, he has emerged again as the only credible political institution in the country, the natural rallying point and refuge centre for national sentiment in moments of stress. He himself told parliamentarians last week, however, that he cannot shoulder total responsibility for the welfare of the Kingdom, as he has stated many times before — apparently to little avail among the political power structure.

So what do we do if we have an immensely popular, responsible and effective king ably assisted by other members of the royal family, beneath whom in the constitutional flow chart we seem to have a formal governance system that is often unable to deal with routine matters of state without direct royal intervention? The challenge for Jordan today is to respond to the King's charge: To achieve a broad-based governance system that can rely on institutional anchorage to sustain the progress that has been achieved since mid-century largely thanks to the quality of royal leadership, the hard work of the Jordanian people, and the partnership and support of our friends abroad. Most people assume that this axiomatically will require less reliance on royal pilotage, and greater activism by democratic institutions of civil society. I think this proposition has to be more fully explored, tested and validated.

The obvious weaknesses and occasional failures of our institutions of political democracy since 1989, combined with the intensity of attachment to the monarch, cannot simply be written off as cultural romanticism, political youthfulness, or post-modern panic. They reflect deeper realities about our social and political culture that do not always seem conducive to the development of a "modern" political system. We should not fear deep, honest self-assessment of our political culture and social values. If our current democratic approach has not fully succeeded, we should note its weaknesses, look for other approaches, and find the right path to continue our journey. The pertinent question remains: Why have we never developed a

credible, responsible and effective political opposition?

If the answer is because the prevailing power structure does not want or accept a credible opposition, then we should forget this democracy talk and stick to mansaf, manageesh and musakhan as the primary focal points of our cultural activism, manifestations of our national unity, and expressions of our communal solidarity. But I don't think this is the case, much as I would personally enjoy a political culture centred on the above three M's. I think the power structure yearns for a credible opposition that can engage the executive branch in a meaningful political contest, the outcome of which would determine state policy. Indeed, the Jordanian/Hashemite track record is routinely comfortable with concepts of consultation, debate, dialogue, and expressions of differing opinions. Historically, it has only sidelined these concepts in moments of national security threats, as happened last week when parliament's summer session was quickly ended. But then — quick, without checking recent newspapers — can you remember what parliament had done in that session before it was closed down? Can't remember, you say? Why not?

The reassessment of political structures in Jordan is a very important challenge; but it must be handled by the people and grassroots institutions of the land, or else it will prove to be a symbolic and meaningless gesture. If the citizenry once again relies primarily on the monarch to bail us out of the current dilemma, we will only suffer the same dilemma again a few years down the road. This is a challenge for the people of Jordan, who must finally break their long cycle of comfortable, non-demanding, self-protective reliance on the wide shoulders of an activist monarch. We are fast approaching the point of historical reckoning at which the Jordanian citizenry must decide if our constitutional, parliamentary monarchy is, in fact, all three — or only a monarchy in which parliamentary and constitutional institutions play a very secondary role.

This seems to me the real historical meaning of the political trends we have witnessed recently: The Islamists effectively failed the test of oppositional credibility, the rest of the opposition proved symbolic and powerless, most other civil society institutions played no significant role, the executive stirred confusion about its mandate to manage the country, the judicial branch was not even consulted by anyone, and the monarchy emerged yet again as both the symbol and substance of an entire country. There are strengths and weaknesses in such an equation; we would be most irresponsible to applaud the strengths while ignoring the weaknesses, as we have tended to do in the past.

Cosmos commander Boutros Ghali is not guilty

By A.M. Rosenthal

NEW YORK — "And when I am president, every man and every woman in our armed forces will know the president is their commander in chief," said Bob Dole in his acceptance speech in San Diego. The next words were underlined in his text and voice. "Not Boutros Boutros Ghali or any other U.N. secretary general."

That got a big hand at the convention. It always gets a nice hand when Mr. Dole and other Republican politicians say it, in or out of the convention hall. Hasn't failed for years.

Said once, it would be kind of comical. Here he comes, the secretary-general, patrolling the U.N. corridors, one day in U.S. fatigues, another in the turban of a Sikh general in the Indian army, or the dress uniform of a Russian admiral. If he is commander in chief of U.S. forces he must be the same for all U.N. members, nein, cher Maréchal?

But said over and over, it is scare propaganda — a crazy-mirror distortion not only of the secretary-generalship but of the entire concept and operation of the United Nations.

The United Nations does not exist as Mr. Dole and the Republican platform committee wanted Americans to see it: A strange foreign apparition floating out there whose chief bureaucrats can tell the United States what to do. It is a conference centre in a U.S. city, where a majority of nations decide what economic, military or political action they might take, and give instructions to the U.N. staff, which then wanly hopes that the governments will pay up for everything they ordered.

No nation has more often or more successfully used the United Nations to get international support for military operations than the United States.

Harry Truman outwitted the Soviet Union to get the U.N. umbrella for the decision he had taken to resist the Communist invasion of South Korea.

George Bush got U.N. sup-

Stop the U.N. bashing

The following editorial appeared in the Aug. 22 issue of the San Francisco Chronicle.

THE CLINTON administration's clumsy, election-inspired campaign to deny U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali a second term has not only seriously damaged the cause of U.S. leadership at the U.N., but it has helped undermine important U.S. international interests on a broad range of issues, from foreign trade to terrorism. To cap it off, the campaign appears headed for a politically embarrassing flop.

Virtually no important allies or regional blocs have lined up behind the U.S. juggernaut against Boutros-Ghali. If anything, the arrogant handling of the issue — the threat to unilaterally veto his selection prior to formally consulting other U.N. Security Council partners — seems to have firmed up what was only soft support in many quarters for Boutros-Ghali's bid for a second term.

Coming at the same time that Congress and the president have enacted controversial laws that attempt to coerce U.S. trade partners into observing U.S. trade sanctions against Cuba, Iran and Libya, the high-handed attack at the U.N. has merely

confirmed the foreign view of America as the self-appointed U.N. sheriff: A bully who insists on calling the shots without being willing to pay the price. That deprecating view was further confirmed by GOP presidential nominee Bob Dole's cheap shot at the United Nations itself and Boutros-Ghali personally in his acceptance address last week. Boutros-Ghali is, in fact, a global diplomat of the first order, and he is privately recognised as such by most knowledgeable Americans, including those, like Dole, who are reflexively critical of the U.N.

The fact that he has largely failed to be an effective administrator or reformer is the fault of a system that demands both qualities in one man. The solution is to create a new post of deputy secretary-general and to fill it with a tough and able administrator who can complement Boutros-Ghali's diplomatic skills.

Unfortunately, both the U.N. and Boutros-Ghali have come to serve as scapegoats for America's own angst over its uncertain, post-cold war place in the world. But demonizing them will succeed neither in reasserting American supremacy nor safeguarding legitimate U.S. interests. More likely, it will do just the opposite.

port for a coalition to defeat Saddam Hussein. The United States did not then tell the United Nations that it would permit Saddam to stay in power if he lost the war. Mr. Bush let that be a near surprise.

Bill Clinton got the United Nations to approve the United States going into Haiti — and to take over when he wanted to get out. In Bosnia, the United States and its allies used the United Nations when it suited them, and then bounced it in favour of a NATO military operation to stop the killing, plus make Bosnians love each other.

Each time, American combat troops were under American command, platoon to platoon. That was true, too, about American combat troops killed in Somalia, whose deaths were used in San Diego to demonize not the enemy but the United Nations.

Yes, small units of U.S. soldiers are assigned to observer or other "peace-keeping" duties under U.N. operational

Nations, and also earns a pretty dollar from having U.N. headquarters in the United States. It is also the chief dead-weight, more than \$1 billion behind in dues, as usual.

And because of the Clintonians' sudden arrogant announcement that Washington would veto the reelection of Dr. Boutros Ghali, the United States has rarely been more resented, nor the secretary-general more popular.

U.N. diplomats interpret the mugging of Dr. Boutros Ghali as I do: A timorous act taken in fear that the Republicans might get some votes from their attacks against the United Nations.

If Mr. Dole wins, and one day has to commit troops to action, he will not fail to seek a U.N. endorsement that could help U.S. forces to win. The sensible time for Republicans to think of that is now, not when it becomes his duty.

The New York Times

LETTERS

Water vs nature

To the Editor:

WORLDWIDE DEMAND for water is doubling every 21 years and more so in certain regions. Supply has been unable to rise to meet this increasing demand, especially with the increase in and expansion of cities and populations. Jordan is also facing this problem — perhaps more acutely. Rainfall is very low and averages around 300 millimetres annually. Every year, we consume 900 million cubic metres of water, of which only 650 million cubic metres are replenished by nature. Although this deficit can be filled by taking water from the ground, including fossil water thousands of years old, we run the risk of polluting and over-pumping our remaining aquifers. These factors probably played a major role in the Jordan Valley Authority's decision to begin a feasibility study on construction designs to collect 54 million cubic metres of water annually (Jordan Times, August 13, 1996). The project, which plans to utilise waters and streams to collect water primarily for tourists, industrial and agricultural purposes, will involve the construction of three dams at Wadi Hassa, Wadi Waleh and Wadi Mujib in addition to another diversion dam at Wadi Mujib.

While the goal of the project is legitimate, the thought of building dams at Wadi Mujib worries me. The latter is part of the Wadi Mujib Nature Reserve, which was established in 1985 and is managed by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) in collaboration with the Department of Forestry. The Nature Reserve is home to 395 plant species — 43 of which are rare and 67 are medicinal — in addition to a wide range of animal species, most of which are threatened globally by extinction such as the ibex, Bonelli's eagle, the Griffon vulture, the golden jackal, the striped hyena and Blandford's fox. The Blandford fox considers Jordan and the reserve, in particular, its only safe haven as it has been nearly wiped out elsewhere in the hunt for its fur. Another little known fact about the reserve is that its free flowing river has an extremely high rate of dissolved oxygen due to the absence of any "oxygen-consuming matter" such as organic waste (i.e. pollution) and more importantly due to its unfettered nature. Flash floods, according to the RSCN, play a positive regulating role in the dynamics of this intricate eco-system as they help in moving certain organisms downstream, thereby allowing new species to colonise upstream.

I can only hope that the Jordan Valley Authority's feasibility study will include a rigorous and comprehensive environmental impact survey, which will assess the effect of the dams and water pipelines on the rich yet vulnerable biodiversity of flora and fauna. I would like to end this letter if I may with three questions: Has the Jordan Valley Authority looked for alternative means to collect 54 mcm of water annually (if so, what are they)? If indeed the water from Wadi Mujib is the only identifiable new source of water for the Jordan Valley, would it be possible to locate the dam(s) outside the nature reserve? What are the views of the RSCN, who manage the Wadi Mujib Reserve, on this upcoming project?

Nadine Shubailat,
Amman

Features

What the 1996 Human Development Report Means to Jordan

Quality counts more than quantity in economic growth, says UNDP's annual survey

AMMAN — The 1996 Human Development Report, which was officially released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) recently, portrayed the grim realities of the global economic situation. Over the past decade, 89 countries suffered an economic recession, leaving a quarter of the world's population worse off today than before, and among those countries which managed to register some economic growth, over 40 per cent failed to see it translate into more jobs. The result? A widening disparity between the wealthy and the impoverished, which gives a ring of truth to the adage "the rich get richer and the poor get poorer."

The Human Development Report pays close attention to three socio-economic indicators in particular to determine the severity of the growing rift between the rich and the poor — income, life expectancy and adult literacy rate. UNDP's annual survey measures all countries' achievements in these areas and calculates their average score to produce the Human Development Index (HDI). Based on a scale of 0 to 1, the HDI reflects where each country stands in its quest to improve the quality of its people's lives. According to the report, an ideal situation or a score of 1 is achieved when a country can boast an average life expectancy of 85 years, education for all and an income level that provides for a decent standard of living.

Every year, the report ranks countries according to their HDI, indicating the degree to which economic prosperity was shared with every socio-economic stratum. Topping the list of 174 countries this year was Canada, followed by the United States, Japan, the Netherlands and Norway. Among the Arab states, Jordan ranked 70, while Syria placed at 92, Lebanon 97, Egypt 106 and Iraq 109.

Although Jordan fared well in comparison to its Arab neighbours in the rankings, its HDI continues to mirror the volatile political and economic climate that has loomed over the region in recent years. Jordan's HDI plunged from 0.752 in 1990 to an all-time low of 0.582 in 1993, before it started climbing back up again.

Because of the complexity involved in compiling and comparing global statistics, the HDI reflects the socio-economic conditions which prevailed two to three years earlier, depending on the availability of recent figures. Thus, this year's HDI value of 0.741 was derived from 1993 statistics on social development.

The fluctuation in Jordan's HDI value can be traced to the drop in GDP per capita income, since life expectancy and adult literacy rates, the other two indicators used to measure the HDI, have remained stable over the past decade. Jordanians witnessed a slump in their earnings

when the economy was challenged by a series of events in recent years. The world recession in the late eighties and the Structural Adjustment Programme initiated by the government in 1989 left their marks on an already-strained economy. The price of fuel and other commodities rose, inflation shot up to 26 per cent and the population felt the pinch as cost of living increased.

The return of some 400,000 expatriates fleeing the Gulf war turned the tables around in 1991. Jordan witnessed an 11 per cent growth in its GDP, as returnees from the Gulf rechannelled their savings into the country, creating a construction boom. By 1995, its HDI exceeded the 1990 record value and peaked at 0.758.

The Human Development Report clearly draws a line

between good growth and bad, shedding some light on why some industrialised countries like Switzerland and Luxembourg with a high GDP per capita continue to rank relatively low in human development. Five types of growth — jobless, ruthless, voiceless, rootless and futureless growths — have been diagnosed as "flawed and lopsided" for ignoring human development.

Jordan has managed to steer clear of some of the "bad" forms of growth. Voiceless growth, or growth without democracy, was put in check when Jordan embarked on a democratisation process which began with the first parliamentary elections in 1989. Since then, a 25-year-old martial law was lifted, the National Charter was adopted, and political parties were legalised. Women were given a stronger voice when the first female deputy was elected to parliament in the 1993 elections and the Jordanian National Committee for Women was

recognised that Jordan is not a homogeneous society, has long tolerated cultural diversity in political and economic life. Ethnic minorities such as the Circassians and Chechens are adequately represented in parliament, while Arab Christians who make up only 4 per cent of the population maintain a strong presence in business and government.

The birth of a strong and vocal environmental movement in Jordan in the 1990s has helped fend off futureless growth — growth which exploits the environment, leaving behind fewer resources for future generations. A widespread network of environmental NGOs has attracted more than 10,000 members, and their active stance has heightened public awareness on pollution and biodiversity. In addition, Jordan has ratified almost

all environmental treaties and conventions. Where natural resources are concerned, however, futureless growth poses a real concern. Nearly half of the water consumed in Jordan comes from non-renewable fossil sources. With a rapidly depleting water supply and a population that is expected to double by the year 2011 (if the 3.5 per cent growth rate persists), the agricultural and manufacturing sectors are expected to face an acute water deficit, not to mention shortage of potable water.

Today, there are growing signs that Jordan's otherwise impressive economic growth in recent years has failed to manifest itself in significant job creation for people — what the Human Development Report refers to as jobless growth. In 1992, when the country was enjoying a mini boom in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis, real GDP growth shot up to 11 per cent, while the unemployment rate reached a staggering 20 per cent. In spite of the continuing positive growth rate in the years that followed, unemployment stood high at 15 per cent.

Likewise, Jordan's economic growth has not benefited all population groups equally and can to some extent be characterised as ruthless growth, growth that is concentrated in the hands of a few to the exclusion of the many. More and more families are being stricken by poverty, with those living in abject poverty increasing from 1.5 per cent to 5.3 per cent between 1989 and 1993. The number of families living below the absolute poverty line in

1993 had reached an alarming rate of 18.3 per cent.

But the good news is that this year's Human Development Report also prescribes remedial measures against the social ills of poor human development. The answer is in a far-sighted and sound government policy which takes a pro-active stand against poverty and unemployment, rather than rely on trickle-down economics. Since its first edition in 1990, the Human Development Report has preached that economic growth should be viewed as a means to achieving the goal of human development — that it is the quality, not the quantity of growth that matters.

Jordan has taken a step in the right direction by recognising the importance of social development and giving priority to the alleviation of poverty and reducing unemployment in its five-year plan through 1997. But the challenge lies in shifting from its traditional investment in infrastructure and utilities towards increased investment in people. It is no easy feat for a developing country which still needs to build roads, renovate its water network or meet increasing demands for electricity and telephone lines. But it must remind itself, in the words of James Gustave Speth, UNDP's Administrator, that economies exist for people — not people for economies.

UNDP

Bedouin woman fears death after sister slain to protect 'family honour'

By Scheherazade Faramarzi
Associated Press

AIN QINTYA, West Bank — It's at night, when she lies on the floor of her tent in the wilderness, that Abeer Mleihat feels most afraid.

With only a goat hair curtain protecting her from the world, the 18-year-old bedouin imagines being stabbed and left to die.

That's what happened to her sister Taghrid, killed by her fiancé because she had gone on trips with a group of friends, among them men.

Abeer joined her sister on some of these outings — late night drives to the desert town of Beer Sheba and the Dead Sea spa of Ein Gedi — and male cousins have threatened to kill her as well.

Such violence is rooted in ancient tribal laws that say a man should take the life of a sister or daughter if he feels she has besmirched the clan's honour, for example by spending time alone with a man.

The tribal customs conflict with modern laws, and police in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) self-rule zone admit they are more lenient with those who kill to protect "family honour" than with other murderers.

A standard sentence for honour killings is 10-15 years in prison, while other killers get at least 30 years.

"When a crime of honour is committed, we have to take into consideration the effect it has on society, and pass sentences that are sensitive to the values of society," said the Palestinian attorney general, Khaled Kidreh.

He said there had been 25 to 35 honour killings since Palestinian self-rule began in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in May 1994. He said those crimes made up the majority of all slayings.

The acceptance of such killings, not only among Palestinians but in other areas of the Middle East, is symptomatic of a culture that grants men total control over women.

A father can pick a husband for his daughter. A husband can order his wife not to work or dictate how many children she should bear. Beatings of women by male relatives are tolerated. There are no shelters for abused women, and police rarely interfere to stop family violence.

In the Mleihat case, police did arrest Taghrid's fiancé, Ali — who is also her cousin — after he confessed to stabbing her to death July 28.

Police have offered to take Abeer to a safe place, but her parents have declined, fearing there would only be more gossip from the tribe.

"The future is dark and horrible, something I don't want to think about," Abeer said, crouched on a rock next to a small stream running past the family encampment in the hills near the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Dressed in a bright red top and skirt over a pair of black pants, she drew circles on the rock with a small pebble as she contemplated her bleak prospects.

Her dream, she said, had been to study and become a journalist. But like most bedouin girls, she was only allowed to finish elementary school.

"Everything is forbidden to a young girl. It's forbidden to go to school. It's forbidden to go out. She's not allowed to give her opinion," she said, pointing at a few dozen baby goats climbing the surrounding hills.

The troubles began a few months ago when some family members moved from the encampment to East Jerusalem, where the girls' father, Mohammed, had taken a night job at a gas station. Taghrid took care of her younger siblings in the Jerusalem apartment.

In Jerusalem, 19-year-old Taghrid made new friends — also bedouins but more urbanised than Taghrid and thus less bound by tradition. On several occasions, the new friends — young men and women — picked her up in a car after her father left for work.

Abeer, who had stayed behind in the encampment, went along on some of the trips. She said she and her sister knew they were taking a terrible risk, but felt they had to rebel against the suffocating rules.

"We felt like someone who holds a sword and wants to fight the whole world, but finds there's no one to fight. So we ended up using the sword against ourselves," said Abeer.

Now Abeer is afraid and alone. "Most nights I feel Taghrid is still sleeping next to me. And then, suddenly, I imagine I'm her, cut up and lying out there."

Three months ago, after gossip began circulating in the tribe that Abeer and Taghrid were "immoral," their mother, Fhaida,

sent them to a gynaecologist to check whether they were virgins.

They were, but the tribe was not satisfied, and the Mleihat sent the girls to stay with their grandmother in a Jerusalem suburb so they would not be harmed.

Mleihat even planned to move his family north and sold all his goats in preparation for a secret journey. But Taghrid's fiancé — a son of one of Mleihat's brothers — gave his word the girls would not be harmed.

Taghrid came out of hiding for what was to be a reconciliation with her fiancé. Instead, Ali and a brother stabbed her 20 times and dumped her in a field near the Mleihat's encampment.

After she had been missing for several hours, Mrs. Mleihat and several dozens tribe members went to look for her. After they found her, Mrs. Mleihat called a doctor and had him examine the body in front of everyone to prove Taghrid was a virgin.

Mleihat has mixed feelings about the tribal traditions, but said if he had discovered that one of his daughters had sex before marriage, "I would have killed her myself."

The trips in mixed company were a mistake, he said, but not grave enough to warrant Taghrid's murder.

Ramallah police have told the family that Abeer is in danger and should hide, but Abeer said she prefers to stay put.

"I'd rather die once and for all than live this way — in fear."

Sudanese plane hijacked to Cyprus

(Continued from page 1)

"For the time being they're not accepting anything," he said.

Civil Aviation Director Michael Herodotou, who was conducting negotiations with the hijackers through the pilot, said "the plane was originally refused permission to land, then was given permission to land because it was running out of fuel."

The plane taxied to an isolated strip of runway after landing and turned off its engines, witnesses said. The security forces and ambulances were

standing by and teams of elite anti-terrorist commandos were at the airport.

An airport source in Beirut said the hijackers had made it clear that they "don't want to go to an Arab country. They only want to go to London," the source said.

Airport sources in Cairo said the plane had 186 passengers and 13 crew members on board and was hijacked 25 minutes after take-off.

The pilot informed the airport as he overflew Egypt that the aircraft was being hijacked to

Larnaca.

In Amman, airport sources said the hijackers had initially demanded to be flown to Italy but the plane had been refused permission to land by the Italian authorities.

The hijacking is the second of a Sudan Airways flight in the past five months.

A Sudan Airways Airbus A-320 carrying 47 people was hijacked on March 24 on flight from Khartoum to Jeddah and forced to land in Asmara, Eritrea, where the two Sudanese hijackers surrendered peacefully.

Syrians take 'defensive stance' in Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

statements and "the attempt of Netanyahu to change the equation and refer to the Syrian forces as just another military group in Lebanon, in order to embarrass Syria," Al Nahar said.

It quoted the sources as saying any Israeli air attack would be against Syrian troops stationed deep inside Lebanon rather than on the Syrian-Lebanese border.

Lebanese security sources told Reuters Syrian troops appeared to be carrying out a routine rotation of forces as well as a redeployment in which they were vacating some exposed positions they have held for years in central Lebanon.

The Syrians had left a strategic mountain crossroads at Bhamdoun on the Beirut-Damascus highway about 30 kilometres south-east of Beirut, the security sources said.

They also left a number of other positions including Dahr Al Beidar, the 1,550 metres pass which the Beirut-Damascus highway crosses to reach the eastern Bekaa Valley. Troops of Lebanon's

63,000-strong army took over the Bhamdoun position, the sources said. They did not say where the Syrian troops redeployed.

Syria's ruling coalition said Israel's "anti-peace and aggressive" policy was a "dangerous setback" for the peace process, official sources said.

They said the central leadership of the Progressive National Front, headed by the Baath Party, said the Israeli government was trying to destroy all peace moves that had been achieved since the opening of talks in 1991 in Madrid.

The official Syrian news agency SANA said the front met on Sunday night, chaired by Vice-President Zuhair Masharqa, to discuss a report by Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa on recent developments in the Middle East.

The leadership discussed the current position of the peace process which was a result of the anti-peace and aggressive policy adopted by the Israeli government...

SANA said. "Through this policy it tries to turn against the bases of the peace process...and return all issues to square one."

"The leadership found in this Israeli policy a dangerous setback for the peace process and a destruction to all that has been achieved in this field," SANA said.

"The policy of escalation, provocation and threat which the Israeli government adopts is a clear attempt to escape from the peace process and its requirements and to attack all that had been achieved during the last five years," it added.

The front said Syria was committed to peace adding that Israel's security could not be achieved but under a comprehensive peace settlement.

It said Israel was "placing its security as more important than other considerations, ignoring that comprehensive and just peace is the only way that brings security...Security should be achieved to everybody and not only for one side."

PLO says offices closed

(Continued from page 1)

itself announced that political negotiations with Israel which have been on hold since early May would resume by next week.

But Mr. Rdeina said no precise date had been agreed for those talks, due to discuss outstanding issues related to the 1995 Oslo agreement extending Palestinian autonomy pending a final peace settlement.

In a television interview late Sunday, Mr. Netanyahu also refused to commit himself to any date for a first meeting with Mr. Arafat.

"It's not a question of a timetable. If such a meeting takes place, it will depend on political developments,"

he said.

Asked about the peace process with the Palestinians, Mr. Netanyahu told Israel Television: "It is starting to move, it is simply moving differently. Not only are we giving, they are also giving. That is the way negotiations should be conducted."

Mr. Gold told Reuters: "I think we are in the process of coming to a series of understandings between Israel and the Palestinian authority."

"I think we can be optimistic that both sides will be in the not too distant future fulfilling their obligations to the agreements they signed in a manner that is mutually satisfactory."

Israeli President Ezer Weizman, answering a "distress" call from Mr. Arafat, said on Sunday he would invite the Palestinian leader to his home but set no date.

Mr. Weizman made the announcement at a hurriedly called news conference with Mr. Netanyahu hours after a newspaper said he had threatened to meet Mr. Arafat over Mr. Netanyahu's objections.

PLO officials said Israel demanded the authority shut the Jerusalem offices at a meeting between Netanyahu envoys and Palestinian officials in Gaza last week.

They said the envoys pledged in return to resume

peace talks and implement a redeployment of Israeli troops in the West Bank town of Hebron agreed by Israel's previous government in a signed accord.

Palestinians view the Hebron withdrawal as a litmus test of Mr. Netanyahu's intentions on Middle East peace moves.

The Israeli envoys said peace talks, stalled since Mr. Netanyahu's election in May, would resume before Sept. 2.

The offices closed were the maps and survey department and the sports and youth office. The head of a third institution Israel had demanded be closed, a vocational school, is continuing to refuse to close his

organisation.

PLO officials said all the offices which Israel wanted closed were licensed by previous Israeli governments and were set up before the 1993 PLO-Israel peace deal.

A Palestinian lawmaker who angered Israel at the start of August when he opened an office in his home in East Jerusalem said on Monday city taxmen seized his furniture. He said the move came despite his having a payment plan for the taxes.

A Jerusalem city spokeswoman said there was no payment plan and rejected Hailem Abdul Qader's charge of harassment.

Detainee release continues

(Continued from page 1)

The stories include the death of an infant in the riots that hit Karak, the arrest of a Karak deputy, an instruction from Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to his Fatah group in Jordan to stay away from the riots in the south, the injury of 23 people in the riots and the

deployment of military planes over Karak.

None of these stories was true and the Al Bilad team could not substantiate them or provide the sources of their information, according to the report.

The report quoted the prosecutor as saying that the publication had violated several articles in the Press and Publications Law.

The nature of the cases against the other journalists in detention was not immediately known.

GATT will press Jordan on quality, pricing of products

By Maria Bizri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will open new markets to Jordanian exports and will force Jordanian industries to improve their standards as well as set more competitive prices, head of the GATT Negotiation Bureau at the Ministry of Industry and Trade Tamam Ghoul said Sunday.

Ms. Ghoul said that whether Jordan decides to join the GATT or not, it will be affected by the agreement whose membership has increased to cover more countries around the world.

"Joining GATT means that Jordan will have to make certain commitments whose results may not, in the short run, be entirely positive because lesser tariffs and other forms of tax reductions called for in the GATT will lower Jordan's revenues, and probably lead to price hikes in exported agricultural products," she said.

These results, she added, will be felt whether or not Jordan joins GATT.

On the long run, however, the country will benefit from joining the GATT, she said.

If Jordan moves to join the agreement, and the expected negative effects stabilise, the country would be able to demand certain compensation in the form of either aid or grants, as stipulated in a special clause of the agreement applicable to developing countries, said Ms. Ghoul.

Ms. Ghoul stressed that the Kingdom needs to introduce, modify, and/or enforce existing intellectual property laws as required by GATT before it becomes eligible for joining it.

She said these laws were particularly necessary for pharmaceutical and chemical industries which are not fully protected by the existing legislation. She said, the available patent protection laws apply to the manufacturing process but do not apply to the final product.

Jordan's commitment to GATT regulations, she added, will enhance its credibility on the international market and assure foreign investors of legislative protection, thus creating an attractive environment for joint ventures, technology transfer and development.

Jordan, she said, will face difficulties in exporting its pharmaceuticals as well as other products if it does not join the GATT because most countries, including seven Arab states, are already members and are committed to the GATT regulations.

According to Ms. Ghoul, GATT members will require that Jordanian goods comply with intellectual property rights laws.

A total of 123 countries have already joined the GATT, comprising a trading force of 93 per cent of the world's trade, she said.

Many other countries have started negotiations and will join soon, leaving Jordan with fewer markets if it decides to stay out, she added.

Ms. Ghoul said the major benefit of GATT is the facilitation of trade among member countries. The most important commitments to the agreement are those pertaining to tariffs and removing trade barriers without quantity limitations on imports except in special cases defined in the agreement.

She said that the terms by which a country would enter GATT are determined through negotiations between the prospective member and all other GATT members.

Becoming a member of GATT requires modification of Jordan's external trade regulations in a manner that would comply with the best interests of GATT members, she said.

Netanyahu: Economic reforms more important than peace

TEL AVIV (AP) — The peace process with the Arabs is overrated as a factor contributing to Israel's prosperity, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

In his most direct comments to date on the peace process' role in the economy, Mr. Netanyahu said the peace efforts are "a little less central than is believed."

"The attempt to justify peace with the economic issue ... does not always correspond to reality," Mr. Netanyahu said in a major economic policy speech Sunday to a conference of Israeli business leaders.

The previous Labour government saw peace as the key factor behind a 40 per cent economic expansion in the past five years. It cited a growth in exports because of new markets in countries that once shunned Israel for political reasons.

Mr. Netanyahu, who has been widely accused of halting the peace talks, has said the growth was mainly driven by past economic reforms and a consumption and investment boom brought on by massive immigration from the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Netanyahu said he would honour the previous

government's autonomy agreements with the Palestinians and even seek open borders with the Arabs to help free Israel's "very, very, very centralised economy."

"The direction will be to open up economically on all the borders and to allow passage of people and goods that is as speedy as possible ... given security constraints," Mr. Netanyahu said.

The Jewish state now boasts a per capita income of \$16,000 annually, about on par with Britain's, Mr. Netanyahu said. He predicted it would become "one of the world's leading economies" in several years.

Despite the growth, inflation has remained at between 10 per cent and 12 per cent annually and the growing trade deficit is projected to reach \$11 billion this year. Also, recent second-quarter figures suggest a significant economic slowdown.

Mr. Netanyahu said maintaining the past years' growth was primarily a function of "internal economic developments."

He pledged to follow through on a recent decision to cut government

spending by \$1.5 billion in 1997, bring inflation to Western levels within several years, and sell off dozens of state companies.

Mr. Netanyahu ventured to Wall Street in July in hopes of luring investment from some of the best-known money houses in the United States.

At that time, he proclaimed that Israel's economy was shackled by centralised planning and rigid bureaucracy. His speech to American business leaders was nearly devoid of any reference to the Middle East peace process.

But three months after the election, some supporters of Mr. Netanyahu's economic policies are starting to lose patience.

Yediot Ahronot, Israel's top-selling daily, has criticised the new government on for "being unable to make up its mind on any issue."

The paper's editorial accused Mr. Netanyahu of talking about privatisation but "quietly burying it under a pile of excuses" and of doing nothing to advance either peace or the economy.

Japanese banks still dominate world loans market

BASLE, Switzerland (AFP) — Japanese banks remain the biggest providers of international loans despite their "reduced role" in foreign markets in 1995 and 1996, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) said in a report Sunday.

Their share of the international loan market has nevertheless shrunk steadily since 1988 when it was 38 per cent. At the end of 1995, the Japanese share had declined to 25 per cent but this was still well above German. French and U.S. banks with 16 per cent, 11 per cent and 10 per cent respectively.

The BIS said that in the 10 years from 1985 to 1995, the total share of all European banks in international bank credit had increased from 41 to 58 per cent. The boost was mainly due to the activity of German banks which at the end of 1995 accounted for 28 per cent of the European group's total international loans, far ahead of French banks (18 per cent) and British and Italian banks which held 9.0 per cent each.

In 1985, the situation was radically different, the BIS said, recalling that in that year, French banks led the field with 22 per cent of the European share of international bank credit.

Over the past ten years, the

German financial system had greatly expanded its international operations, for three main reasons: Germany's large financial surplus which had to be recycled in the 1980s, the financial solidity of the German banks and more recently, their desire to get round national rules on reserves and taxation.

The BIS said U.S. banks had seen an "erosion" of their position over the last ten years during which their share had shrunk from 22 to 10 per cent.

U.S. banks suffered particularly from the debt crisis which affected developing countries in the period 1981 to 1982 because of the huge amount of money loaned to Latin American countries, it said. But the BIS said activity of U.S. banks had recovered slightly in 1993-94 but had become "more selective."

Globally, the BIS said "total net new international securities financing reached a new and record volume in the second quarter of 1996." This was illustrated by an unprecedented volume of issues by developing countries, which underlines the fact that the Mexican crisis of early 1995 and the bond market turbulence seen at the beginning of 1996 had no more than a temporary influence."

Sri Lanka hikes bread prices again

COLOMBO (AFP) — The Sri Lankan government Monday announced a 21.5 per cent increase in the price of wheat flour and a corresponding increase in the price of bread.

The sharp rise, the third in five months, is bound to impact on the official cost of living index which gives substantial weightage to the price of bread, which is subsidised.

The retail price of a kilogram of flour was raised from 13.95 rupee to 16.95 (30 U.S. cents), a government announcement said.

In July and in April, the price of bread and flour, staple food of urban communities, was raised by 15 and five per cent respectively.

In July, the government also increased the price of

cigarettes and liquor by 15 per cent and allowed private bus operators to raise their fares by as much as 33 per cent.

In another decision, the Sri Lankan government Monday announced a hefty 50 per cent salary increase

to all public sector employees and said it was also appointing a committee to improve state sector productivity.

The government in a statement said that it was also raising pensions by 10 per cent.



"Today I ran with a stick in my hand and nothing bad happened! So what else did you lie about, Mom?"

Peanuts



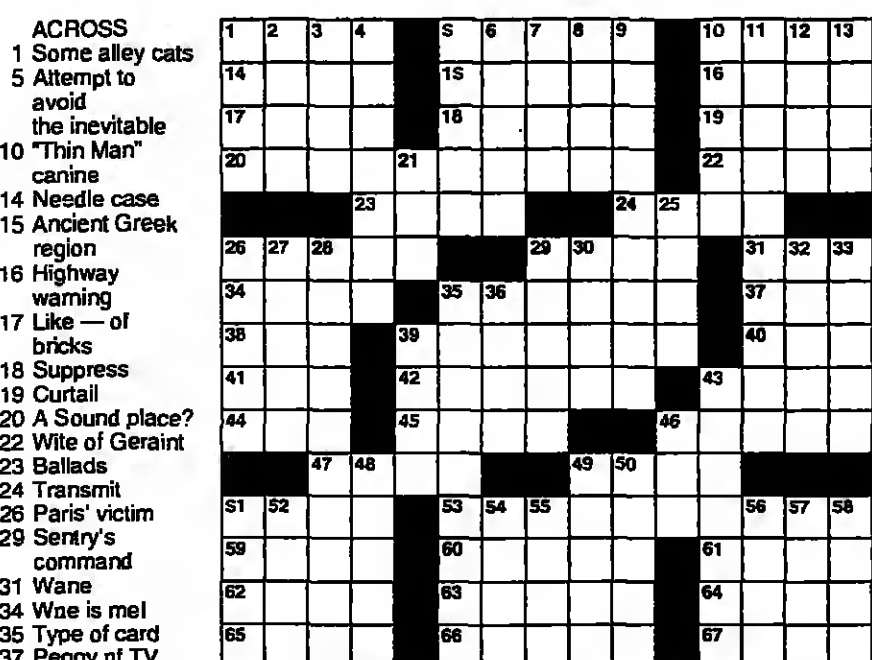
Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by Alan Olschwang



- ACROSS
- Some alley cats
 - Attempt to avoid the inevitable
 - "Thin Man" canine
 - Needle case
 - Ancient Greek region
 - Highway warning
 - Like — of bricks
 - Suppress
 - Curtail
 - A sound place?
 - Wife of Geraint
 - Ballads
 - Transmit
 - Paris' victim
 - Sentry's command
 - Ware
 - Ware is mel
 - Type of card
 - Peggy in TV
 - Slice
 - The Sunshine State
 - Former secret org.
 - Supplement
 - Represent with a symbol
 - Fat
 - Kinsman: abbr.
 - A terrible leader?
 - Jai alai basket
 - Nursery rhyme opener
 - Taj Mahal site
 - Shillelagh
 - Sea fearer?
 - Diving birds
 - A place to remember
 - Roof overhang
 - Waste
 - allowance
 - Ninth day before the ides
 - Ashtabula's waterfront
 - Small amounts
 - School bigwigs
 - Order to a broker
- DOWN
- Freshwater duck
 - Holy Roman emperor
 - Elementary particle
 - Diamond hits
 - Spacex of films
 - Works the land
 - Rectangular pileaster
 - Celebrity
 - Overwhelming victory
 - CO city
 - Defamatory
 - Convex moldings
 - Inspired with reverence
 - Author Fleming
 - Cartoon's Kelt
 - Ishmael's mother
 - Slur over
 - Like some countries
 - Long-necked wader
 - Mine exit
 - Harass
 - Trump, in card games
 - American League team
 - A Barrett
 - Bank agcy.
 - Naval builders
 - French vineyard
 - Aeries
 - Madison street minions
 - Sheen
 - O.T. book: abbr.
 - Glories
 - vera
 - Wendy's dog
 - Expose to the public
 - Satanic
 - Lively dance

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY AUGUST 27 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll
Richter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Get practical affairs well arranged today so that you are better off financially. Contact experts in such matter so that when the need arises for extra funds you will be able to handle any desperate measures for the days ahead.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Get your appearance at its best today so that you will make a good impression to those in authority and then be off to the social pleasures you have planned. Be happy with your mate later this evening and plan some special event.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Ride yourself today of whatever keeps you from being happy and later tonight enjoy the company of friends who can make this time especially pleasant for you. You can consult with some high concerning career activities.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) This is a good time today to see as many close friends as you can and plan some recreational activities which everyone will find pleasing. Gain your aims quite easily with the assistance of a knowledgeable individual.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You look dynamic today and you can make big headway in public, so accept worthwhile invitations to some special activities which will make you prosperous. Later this evening you will desire the opportunity for career activities.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) If you are practical-minded you can get into new outlets which are profitable and you gain you much prestige in the days ahead. Study these things first and then you can meet with those in authority for some advice.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be more serious today with those who have articles you want to purchase and you can make a good investment with them, so do not spend too much. Later this evening will be good for you to go out on the town with your mate.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) If you want to have new fellow associates today for some new project, charm them socially and they can come to an agreement with you which is mutually acceptable and this action will ensure prosperity to you financially.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Make sure that you bundle present activities in a brilliant manner today and you will become more successful in your course of action. Later this evening you can have fun with close friends as long it is not too expensive.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Plan recreations today which you like and this can bring you more happiness than you've had for sometime. This is the time for you to conclude any business activities and proceed onto other project which have been put aside.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is a good time today to make your home more attractive to close friends and fellow associates so that you can invite them in and by doing so you will acquire the impression of being quite successful.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Communicate with others today and show how much you admire them in their career activities and gain more goodwill for the days ahead. Tonight will be a good time for you to go out on the town with your mate and have fun.

Birthstone of August:
Peridot — Golden
Quartz

Business Research

be cons...

By Samir HUB...

FOR REI

3 bedrooms apart
Shmeisan, secon
220 sq.m.
3 bedrooms in a
area, third floor, 19
Abdoun Real
Tel: 810605 - 8
Fax: 810552

Happy Da

Patisserie
Soups & Salads

OPEN DAILY
10 A.M. - 1
Tel. 85711
Fax 8985

Umm Utha
behind San
Hotel

Researchers propose all Jordanian governorates be considered as tourist investment zones

By Samir Hijawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A research team working for the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has recommended that all Jordanian governorates, and not only Amman and Aqaba, be considered as tourist investment zones in order to make them eligible for tourist investments. The team also called for the creation of free trade zones in the eastern badia districts as well as a free trade and transit zone in Aqaba.

Tayel Haji, head of the research team, said that "Amman and Aqaba are still accounting for 90 per cent of various tourist investments but the time has come now for providing incentives for such investments for the rest of the country."

"Most countries in the region lack red meat and depend on imports and we call for the creation of a free trade zone that would serve to develop livestock wealth in the eastern badia. This project could involve Syria and Iraq as well because they share the eastern badia, or Badiat Al Shaam, with Jordan," he said.

With regard to Jordan's seaport, Mr. Haji said: "A free trade and transit zone in Aqaba to promote trade and transit activities of goods would contribute towards protecting Aqaba's tourist character as well as promote Jordan's trade with neighbouring countries," added Mr. Haji.

The study entitled: "The Special Economic Regions, Their Importance and Jordan's Plans," defines these regions or zones as certain geographic areas located in lands of a certain country or group of countries where economic activities are governed by special laws and regulations.

Jordan has several such areas like the Free Trade Zone of Zarqa, the Aqaba Region Authority, the Jordan Valley Authority and the Special Jordanian Commercial and Industrial Zones.

However, these zones face a number of problems, foremost of which are the government routine and bureaucracy and overlapping legislations.

To address these problems the society of

investors in the free trade zones sent a memorandum to Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti earlier this month in which they noted the inter-related and conflicting laws that have been negatively affecting investments in these zones.

The memorandum said "Investors in the free zones are not only subject to the zones' laws and regulations but rather to various laws and regulations imposed by different government departments like the ministries of agriculture and industry and the customs department. The laws of these government agencies conflict with the free zones laws."

The memorandum further noted that in the light of this situation industrial investments which originally were estimated at 32, have shrunk to six only and they too, still suffer from the unfair government laws on the one hand and the unfavourable economic environment on the other.

According to the memorandum, industry was not the only sector to suffer as investments in commercial activities also retreated while the existing businesses have started migrating to Jebel Ali Free Zone in Dubai where they find more facilities and better services.

The memorandum under-

lined the need for creating a financially and administratively independent free zone corporation manned by qualified personnel who can deal with investors without much red tape.

Marzouq Al Hadid, director of the Free Zones Corporation admitted the existence of these problems but he blamed them on other government departments.

"Eighty per cent of these problems facing investors are caused by the other departments and 20 per cent are related to the procedures followed in the free zones themselves," he added.

Mr. Kabariti told industrialists and prominent busi-

nessmen Sunday that the companies law will be amended in order to facilitate the registration of companies and to simplify the procedures so as to encourage investors. He also promised that the customs law will be amended to serve the same purpose.

Mr. Haji said that problems facing the special economic regions in Jordan stem from legal considerations depriving these zones of the right to issue a certificate of origin and restricting their capabilities to benefit from Jordan's trade protocols with other countries.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHAMSAN									
TELEPHONE: 507171 / 507179									
AMMAN MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 26/08/1996									
PART 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P / R	Div.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
250,000	205,000	ARAB BANK	12.5	2.53	48	1100	247800	221.25	228.80 7.25+
1,310	880	ARAB BANK	58.5	0.00	8	8750	608	0.00	-
2,700	1,120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	5.0	6.39	2	350	761	2.15	2.18 0.03+
3,040	2,600	JOR. KIWAT BANK	19.8	0.00	6	100370	274982	2.68	2.69 0.01+
1,240	890	JOR. QILY BANK	5.4	7.78	3	821	719	0.00	-
4,180	3,300	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.2	0.00	23	11613	41578	3.48	3.58 0.10+
4,160	1,700	UNION RE. INV. INV.	8	0.00	1	50	87	1.73	1.73 -
3,480	2,330	SELT. AL-HAL (BISTMA)	1.5	0.33	11	1500	3548	2.26	2.37 0.01+
1,050	240	AMMAN BANK	9	0.00	3	3750	940	0.00	-
1,860	1,000	PRILLADEL INV. BK.	9	0.00	8	392	423	1.13	1.07 0.04-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS									
2,910	2,150	JOR. FARMER INSUR.	6.2	9.13	1	150	329	2.16	2.15 0.01-
3,680	1,940	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	7.2	8.38	2	300	581	1.00	1.91 0.09-
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS									
INDEX: 121.44 7CHG: -0.26									
1,900	1,450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.7	7.99	10	3020	5579	1.83	1.54 0.01-
2,900	2,280	HEWIDH M. BASHAR	11.4	6.06	2	390	705	2.35	2.35 -
2,170	1,080	HEWIDH M. BASHAR	9.4	0.00	27	11350	13073	1.12	1.12 0.00+
1,160	880	REAL ESTATE INV.	20.4	2.44	3	800	724	0.88	0.91 0.04+
1,180	650	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	13.0	0.00	3	400	348	0.55	0.52 0.03-
2,430	1,700	ORFED BANK	9.8	5.35	1	1500	1443	0.87	1.87 0.01+
1,200	820	ORFED BANK	2	0.00	3	2800	1443	0.87	0.90 0.01-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS									
INDEX: 110.60 7CHG: +0.36									
3,770	1,050	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	19.1	2.99	18	6686	22240	2.29	3.34 0.06+
3,550	2,710	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	29.6	0.00	1	500	1375	2.77	2.75 0.02-
5,960	4,700	ARAB POTASH CO.	15.7	3.89	3	1400	7280	5.20	5.20 -
10,550	8,720	JUN. FERTILIZER, NUTRIENT	9.4	0.64	6	810	7699	9.26	9.26 -
7,600	7,000	JORDAN TANNING	7.7	5.00	2	55	396	7.17	7.20 0.03+
3,750	2,000	INDUSTRIAL DEV. INV.	25.5	0.00	2	210	675	2.00	1.90 0.10-
8,150	6,410	JOR. ROBERTS HELLS	7.8	0.00	2	2100	14805	7.00	0.05 0.05+
5,100	3,100	ARAB PHARM. IND.	20.2	5.43	13	2730	9911	3.61	3.64 0.03+
6,450	5,850	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	7.4	4.20	3	222	1315	5.07	5.09 0.02+
4,050	3,600	JOR. RAYON CARBON	18.7	3.08	2	106	351	3.25	3.25 -
2,310	2,000	CERAMIC IND.	7.8	10.34	4	750	1156	2.90	2.93 0.03+
8,900	4,250	DAR ALDINAH INV.	12.3	4.42	1	200	902	4.50	4.51 0.01+
5,800	3,130	ARAB ALUM. IND.	6.3	8.73	1	300	1029	3.42	3.43 0.01+
740	480	LIVERPOOL & POLYTH	0.0	0.00	42	14870	76778	0.02	0.53 0.01+
1,110	660	NATIONAL IND.	10.4	8.57	9	2513	1759	0.69	0.70 0.01+
2,080	1,060	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	6	1400	1630	1.18	1.10 0.08+
2,180	1,080	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	27.9	0.00	13	2500	6310	1.44	0.58 0.04+
1,920	1,000	TAHSEEN INVEST.	40.4	4.29	16	5300	7321	1.42	1.40 0.02-
3,300	1,760	UNIV. MOON. IND.	6.0	10.15	6	5200	17726	1.89	1.97 0.08+
2,100	1,140	JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	17.7	0.00	10	17400	1448	1.56	0.50 0.05+
1,740	960	JOR. NEW CHALK CO.	27.7	0.00	16	4900	4931	0.99	1.02 0.03+
2,460	1,750	EL - SAW READY WEAR	8	0.07	3	1530	2785	1.85	1.87 0.02+
1,490	1,050	INTL. TOBACCO	27.3	0.00	9	1650	3989	1.15	1.16 0.01+
2,120	1,130	ORION CHE. & VEG.	29.1	0.00	4	2000	2350	1.18	1.18 -
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS									
INDEX: 107.51 7CHG: +0.43									
GRAND TOTAL									
INDEX: 141.31 7CHG: -1.46									
AMMAN MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 26/08/1996									
0.12	0.20	JOR. TRADE FAC.	16.8	0.00	7	21050	13057	0.01	0.01 -
0.90	0.70	UNION INV. SOI	69.8	0.00	5	10000	2330	0.01	0.01 -
1.20	0.20	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	0	0.00	13	8550	5957	0.01	0.01 -
0.70	0.10	ARAB FOOD & MED.	0	0.00	4	1450	6499	1.42	1.42 -
1.70	1.30	ARAB CO. CO-OP.	0	0.00	4	400	448	0.00	0.00 -
1.10	0.30	NATL. TEXTILE	0	0.00	31	23200	13066	0.00	0.01+
1.100	0.80	NATL. WOLF. PEG. NAKICU	0	0.00	9	4900	6171	0.77	0.70 0.01+
1.000	0.70	JORDAN STRE.	0	0.00	2	1500	860	0.00	0.00 -
1.710	1.100	UNION TOBACCO 73	2	0.00	4	4032	3688	1.18	1.16 0.01+
0.80	0.40	ARAB PHARM. 68	2	0.00	4	1411	405	0.85	0.84 0.01-
0.80	0.40	TRDS. IND.	33.3	0.00	4	1000	540	0.82	0.82 0.00-
1.460	0.770	INDS. CERAMIC	8	0.00	6	2100	1738	0.78	0.79 0.01+
0.920	0.040	PEARL INV. P. CORP.	8	0.00	2	122	75	0.63	0.63 0.00-
1.900	0.50	IND. EAST COMPLEX	0.3	0.00	11	10350	7250	0.70	0.71 0.01+
GRAND TOTAL									
134 131766 80309									

A review of news from the Arabic press

Banks given names of 4,013 persons who are involved in bouncing cheques

** THE ASSOCIATION of Banks in Jordan has supplied its members with a list of names who are continuously writing cheques without having sufficient funds in their accounts. According to the association's 1995 annual report, the number of those persons whose cheques continue to bounce has increased by 17.4 per cent as an additional 540 names have been added to the list. The total number now stands at 4,013 names.

The list would help the banks to be careful in dealing with those persons on the one hand and to combat the phenomenon of bouncing cheques, on the other hand, as the phenomenon of bouncing cheques

has become harmful on economic activities, especially the commercial and banking sectors, the association explained.

Meanwhile, the Central Bank indicated in its latest Monthly Statistical Bulletin that the number of cheques that bounced in May 1996 was 37,000 cheques carrying JD 38 million value that is 29 per cent more than April 1996. The Central Bank bulletin showed that the number of bounced cheques has dropped by 8.3 per cent during the first five months of this year but the value of those (170,000) cheques that bounced was about JD 173.5 million, three per cent more than the same period during 1995 (Al Aswaq).

Saudis top Arab Gulf tourists to Jordan in first seven months of '96

** THE NUMBER of Arab Gulf tourists during the first seven months of this year increased by nine per cent as the total was 291,289 tourists compared to 268,104 tourists during the same period of 1995. Tourists from Saudi Arabia topped the list with a total of 237,508, 9.22 per cent more than the number in the first seven months of last year. In second

place were the Kuwaitis (26,704) followed by Bahrainis (11,514), Omanis (6,288) and nationals of the United Arab Emirates (5,739). The number of tourists from Qatar was 3,536.

Tourists from other nationalities were as follows: Israelis (66,660), Americans (67,198), Europeans (161,152) and other countries (25,514) (Al Dustour)

REUTERS • REUTERS •

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NTG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	0.6425	0.4341	0.5000	107.03	1.3700	151.53	1.8573	5.0569
OE Mark	0.6764	1.0000	0.6366	0.7279	163.20	1.9360	202.65	2.4834	6.9137
GB Sterling	1.5564	1.5564	1.0000	1.0558	166.10	2.1323	235.25	2.9794	7.9706
CH Franc	0.8301	1.2343	0.5379	1.0000	90.20	1.1474	126.54	158.03	4.2353
JP Yen	0.0093	1.3724	0.5981	1.074	1.0000	1.2717	14.03	153.84	4.6941
CA Dollar	0.7299	1.0700	0.4888	0.8705	1.27	1.0000	1.2003	1.8898	5.2513
IT Lira	0.0007	0.9777	0.4247	0.0708	1406.07	0.9069	0.0281	1.096	3.3439
NL Guilder	0.0034	0.9116	0.3073	0.7186	64.90	0.0281	0.0281	0.0281	0.0281
FR Franc	0.1977	0.2922	0.1289	0.1289	23.759	0.1289	0.1289	0.1289	0.1289

Energy									
Oil	Last	Previous	Oil	Last	Previous	Oil	Last	Previous	Oil
Brent	21.05	21.35	WTI	21.05	21.35	WTI	21.05	21.35	WTI
WTI	21.05	21.35	WTI	21.05	21.35	WTI	21.05	21.35	WTI
Brent	21.05	21.35	WTI	21.05	21.35	WTI	21.05	21.35	WTI
WTI	21.05	21.35	WTI	21.05	21.35	WTI	21.05	21.35	WTI

Metal Prices			Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)					
Metal	Bid	Offer	Period	1 - 3	3 - 6	6 - 9	9 - 12	
Gold (w's)	388.4	388.9	Cinco	Months	Months	Months	Months	
Silver (w's)	5.24	5.26	USO	5.25	5.38	5.57	5.75	
Platinum (w's)	400	401	GBP	5.75	5.41	5.48	5.50	
AL (3 Months)	1482	1484	JPY	0.37	0.43	0.50	0.56	
CU (3 Months)	1943	1947	OEM	3.12	3.12	3.06	3.12	
Zinc (3 Months)	1022	1025	FRF	3.58	3.75	3.85	3.87	
Lead (3 Months)	906	909	CHF	2.13	2.18	2.25	2.25	
NI (3 Months)	745	748	ITL	8.84	8.82	0.45	0.30	

Russia's Popov in 'serious condition' after stabbing

MOSCOW (R) — Russian double Olympic swimming champion Alexander Popov was in a serious condition on Monday after being stabbed on a Moscow street.

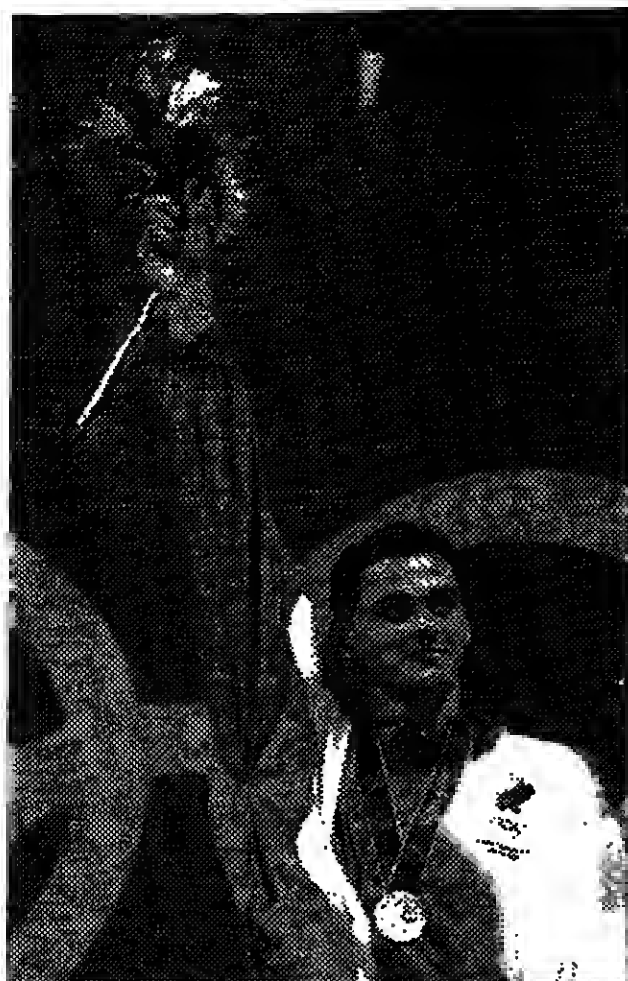
A doctor said it was too early to say whether Popov, the only man to retain the Olympic 50 and 100 metres freestyle titles, would return to top-level sport.

"His condition is serious," said Rimma Maslova, deputy chief doctor of hospital No. 31 in the Russian capital. "But he is conscious and is talking and smiling."

Maslova told Reuters she was not an expert in sports medicine, but said it was too early to judge Popov's chances of returning to competitive swimming.

Popov, who won gold in the 50 and 100 metres freestyle at the recent Atlanta Olympics, was stabbed in the abdomen late on Saturday after an argument with a group of roadside watermelon sellers in south-west Moscow.

Maslova said the wound had affected a lung and a kidney. Doctors operated on Popov, 24, for three



Russian swimmer Alexander Popov is shown acknowledging the crowd during the medal ceremony at the Atlanta Games after he won the gold medal in the 400m freestyle event July 22. Popov, a double gold-medallist at the Atlanta Olympics, was hospitalised in serious condition August 25 after being stabbed on a Moscow street (Reuters photo)

hours.

Popov told NTV television on Sunday he was in no danger and promised he would be back in the pool shortly. "There's no need to worry. We're going to be walking soon — and swimming," he insisted cheerfully from his bed in the intensive care unit.

Interfax news agency said police had detained one of the attackers. It said the row started when Popov and a group of his friends were returning from a party.

Vitaly Smirnov, president of the Russian national Olympic committee, said President Boris Yeltsin had given the swimmer Russia's top award for his Olympic performance. "I am not a doctor but I think he is doing all right," said Smirnov.

Smirnov said the Olympic committee might ask the government to take measures to protect the country's best athletes, some of whom have already chosen to live abroad for fear of a surge in crime in post-Soviet Russia.

Porto kick off season with a draw

LISBON (R) — Portuguese champions Porto kicked off the season with a disappointing 2-2 home draw against Setubal and were lucky to squeeze in an equaliser in extra time.

Porto, who are fighting to take their third consecutive title this season, were 2-0 down until the 86th minute when a header by Mario Jardel found the net after a string of missed opportunities, including a penalty taken by top league scorer Domingos Oliveira in the 60th minute.

Domingos redeemed himself by netting the equaliser just into extra time.

Setubal, who put on a skilful counter-attack throughout the game, opened the scoring 16 minutes into the match when an unmarked Chiquinho Conde shot around Porto's new Polish keeper Andrezej Wozniak. Conde scored his second in the 70th minute.

Benfica, also playing their first game of the season at home, were held to a 1-1 draw by northern side Braga despite the fact that the visitors were reduced to 10 men in the 54th minute after Rodrigo Carneiro was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Benfica dominated the game but their lack of a first-class striker was apparent throughout and in the 30th minute they lost key Brazilian midfielder Vildo who suffered a light knee injury. He was substituted by Paulo.

Benfica finally opened the scoring in the 81st minute with a penalty taken by defender "after" Luis Baltasar tripped up captain Joao Pinto under the referee's nose.

Braga defender Idalecio gave his team their equaliser seven minutes from the final whistle with a header into the back of the net.



New York Yankees' Derek Jeter (right) tumbles over Oakland Athletics' Islay Molina as Molina broke up a double play opportunity on a grounder by Tony Batista in the seventh inning of their game at New York's Yankee Stadium. Yankees' Luis Sojo looks on (left) (Reuters photo)

Angels swamp Orioles; Royals lose again

BALTIMORE (R) — Dennis Springer tossed a five-hitter and Randy Velarde highlighted a seven-run fourth with a grand slam to power the California Angels to a 13-0 blanking of the Baltimore Orioles on Sunday.

Springer walked two and struck out six for his first Major-League complete game. "I threw strikes with the knuckleball and the rarity of the pitch ... They're not used to seeing it," Springer said.

The Orioles have lost five of eight and were shut out for the second time in the three-game series.

In Boston, Troy O'Leary hit a three-run homer and Jeff Frye added a two-run shot as the Boston Red Sox climbed above .500 for the first time this season with an 8-5 victory over the Seattle Mariners.

Mike Maddux allowed one run over seven innings for the Red Sox, who have won six of seven games to move to 66-65. Boston began the season with a 6-19 slide.

In Cleveland, Albert Belle celebrated his 30th birthday by delivering a two-run single in a five-run eighth

inning as the Cleveland Indians rallied for an 8-5 victory over the Milwaukee Brewers, avoiding a three-game sweep.

The Indians, who broke a three-game losing streak, trailed 5-3 entering the seventh. Belle hit 424 (14-for-33) with 10 RBI on Cleveland's nine-game homestand.

In Kansas City, Todd Van Poppel won as a starter for the first time in nearly a year and Travis Fryman homered and drove in three runs, leading the Detroit Tigers to their fifth win in six games. 7-4 over the slumping Kansas City Royals.

Van Poppel (2-6) allowed three runs and eight hits over six innings.

At Minnesota, Rusty Greer and Dave Valle hit two-run homers and Kevin Elster added a three-run double in a seven-run first inning and Bobby Witt allowed six hits over eight innings as the Texas Rangers cooled off the Minnesota Twins 13-2.

Elster homered and drove in five runs and Juan Gonzalez and Will Clark hit back-to-back homers for Texas, which won for the 12th time in 16 games.

Minnesota dropped back to 0.500 (66-66) as it lost for just the sixth time in 19 games.

In New York, Matt Stairs' leadoff homer snapped a ninth-inning tie and Mark McGwire homered and drove in four runs as the Oakland Athletics defeated the New York Yankees 6-4. Stairs belted a 2-1 pitch off Jeff Nelson (4-4) over the centre-field fence for his seventh homer.

Oakland won for just the third time in its last 13 road games and snapped a six-game losing streak to New York.

In Chicago, former Blue Jay Pat Borders singled home Dave Martinez with one out in the bottom of the 10th inning as the Chicago White Sox snapped a five-game losing streak with a 10-9 victory over Toronto, who had their seven-game winning streak broken.

Martinez began the bottom of the 10th with a double off Mike Timlin (1-5) and moved to third on a sacrifice by Domingo Cedeño, another former Blue Jay. After Tony Phillips was intentionally walked, Borders lined a 1-2 pitch to centre, scoring Martinez with the winning run.

Cubs edge Braves with run in top of 9th

ATLANTA (R) — Brian McCrae singled in Tyler Houston in the top of the ninth inning to snap a tie as the Chicago Cubs avoided a three-game sweep with 3-2 victory over the Atlanta Braves on Sunday.

The Braves scored four runs in the ninth for a 6-5 victory on Saturday.

Kevin Foster (5-2) won his second straight start, allowing two runs and six hits with two walks and three strikeouts over eight innings.

"The biggest thing was my fastball. I was able to rotate it pretty good," Foster said. "Also, I was able to keep my changeup down."

At Colorado, Vinny Castilla homered twice and drove in four runs and Larry Walker went 3-for-4 with a homer and three RBIs as the Colorado Rockies shattered the hopes of showcasing the supposed superiority of the aryan race.

Bailey, who broke the world record in the Olympic final in Atlanta, dismissed any idea that the team would take it easy.

Asked who he thought was the best sprinter ever, he flashed a wide smile and said: "Well, I think I ran the fastest time. But as far as athletics are considered, I think Jesse Owens was the best ever."

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Medvedev wins 10th career ATP title

COMMACK, New York (R) — Fifth-seed Andrei Medvedev of Ukraine beat unseeded Martin Damm from the Czech Republic 7-5 6-3 to win the Waldbaum Hamlet Cup tennis tournament on Sunday.

It was Medvedev's 10th career ATP Tour title, but his first since winning in Hamburg last year.

It also was his first hardcourt victory and U.S. final appearance since beating Petr Korda, Czech Republic, three years ago in New Haven, Connecticut.

Damm, who lost the last four games of the match, and hastened his own defeat with doublefaults, is still seeking his first tournament victory.

He will meet France's Jean-Philippe Fleurian in the first round and is in fifth-seeded Richard Krajicek's quarter and in the same half with top-seed Pete Sampras, the defending champion.

"I like the way I was biting my shots," Medvedev said.

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Naser 56
(Arabic)
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:00

CONCORD
CONCORD "1"
MONKEY TROUBLE
Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30
Fire Game
Shows: 12:30, 5:00, 10:30
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Ahmad Zaki...in
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Spor

Ferrei

TORONTO (R) — Seeded Wayne Ferreira won South Africa's tournament of his Sunday, defeating Australian Ted

bridge 6-2 6-4 at the Open.

Ferreira, who won from 1994 to 1995 world rankings victory, took home prize check

\$25,000.

The 24-year-old African won his meetings with 11 ranked Woodbridge. Sunday he had his first win since the 1994 Open.

On Sunday, Ferreira, who won his first ATP title in 1994, defeated Woodbridge 6-2 6-4 in the first round.

He had only one point in the second set of the match, and on a double fault in the third set, he was

in the net. Ferreira, who won his first ATP title in 1994, defeated Woodbridge 6-2 6-4 in the first round.

I missed a couple of shots, but I was feeling 'right' at the time. It was a big match when you

Money

gymna

NEW YORK (AP) — Money battle is a tour for Olympic champions' team to begin September.

Five members of team — Shunmo, Domingos, Amanda Borden, Phelps and D. Daves — have signed a 33-city tour to begin September.

Each participant receive \$3,500 a per show under the But Chicago W. owner Eddie L. long-time promoter gathered other team owners to a gymnasium to participate on the tour.

Tour, a show include the Russian nasties team.

Participants on the tour would \$10,000 to \$20,000. But for the U.S.

French

Olympic

champion

hungry ag

MANCHESTER — French riders, who out of the cycling gold medal Atlanta Olympics, mood to relax at championships, where on Wednesday Florian Rousseau missing from this gold medal event decided to challenge many's Jens Fiedl sprint title.

The French champions riding Felicia Ballanger sprint, Nathalie F. cien (women's pe and the team purled by Rousseau. Chris Bourdeman attempting to re pursue title from who not only to man's Olympic re stone Mountain Atlanta, but also mark Scotland's Obree had set Olympics in Baro

hunger strike ended

A Kuwait Interior Ministry official said the hunger strike at the emirate's central prison has ended. The strike has been called off by about 200 prisoners, which began after the escape of an inmate and to end the supply of food and water to the prisoners. The prisoners were not given any food or water for the last 24 hours. The prisoners were not given any food or water for the last 24 hours. The prisoners were not given any food or water for the last 24 hours.

Saudi manoeuvres in Red Sea

Egyptian and Saudi naval forces met in the Red Sea to discuss the situation in the Red Sea. The meeting was held in the Red Sea. The meeting was held in the Red Sea. The meeting was held in the Red Sea.

kill two south of Cairo

Egypt (AFP) - A suspected gunman killed two people and wounded a third in a shooting in the village of Al-Hayya south of Cairo. The gunman was not immediately identified but police are looking for him. The gunman was not immediately identified but police are looking for him. The gunman was not immediately identified but police are looking for him.

leader fakes attack to get arms

PH - An Egyptian leader faked an attack on himself to get arms. The leader was not immediately identified but police are looking for him. The leader was not immediately identified but police are looking for him. The leader was not immediately identified but police are looking for him.

man shot dead in Somalia

U.N. - A man was shot dead in Somalia. The man was not immediately identified but police are looking for him. The man was not immediately identified but police are looking for him. The man was not immediately identified but police are looking for him.

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Alcohol	4900
Tobacco	5000

Sports

Ferreira wins Canadian Open

TORONTO (R) - Third-seeded Wayne Ferreira of South Africa won the 13th tournament of his career on Sunday, defeating unseeded Australian Todd Woodbridge 6-2 6-4 at the Canadian Open.

Ferreira, who will move from 10th to 7th in the world rankings after the victory, took home a first-prize check worth \$288,000.

The 24-year-old South African has won his last six meetings with the 43rd-ranked Woodbridge and Sunday he had more power and more consistency than the 26-year-old Australian.

On a bright sunny afternoon, both players had to battle windy conditions.

"The wind really swirls around and it's difficult to get your game to the level you'd like," said Ferreira. "Normally, I'm pretty bad in the wind and I struggle a lot. But I decided to take a little off my first serve and use my backhand slice to keep the ball low and it worked."

He faced only one break point, in the second game of the match, and saved it on a Woodbridge error. "This is the biggest tournament I've ever won," said Ferreira about the ATP Tour super nine event.

Woodbridge was broken in the opening game of the match and was so upset that he hit a ball into the front of the court-side box seats and received a warning for ball abuse from the umpire.

"I was frustrated because I missed a couple of shots by just a little bit," said Woodbridge, who admitted feeling "tight" at the outset. "It was a big game in a match when you're gun-



South Africa's Wayne Ferreira returns a shot during his final match at the Canadian Open (Reuters photo)

ning for a guy who's ranked higher than you."

Woodbridge lost his serve at 2-2 in the second set and Ferreira took control, winning the title on his first match point when Woodbridge hit a forehand wide.

"I think what Wayne has improved is his court mobility and his speed," Woodbridge said. "Playing him is a little like playing (American) Michael Chang because you feel it's necessary to hit the ball better and harder. He can run down awkward shots and that's an area of his game that has gotten better."

At the U.S. Open, which begins Monday, both Ferreira, the ninth seed, and Woodbridge will play qualifiers.

Ferreira feels very confident going into flushing meadows. "If I'm going to lose at the (U.S.) Open, it'll have to be to someone playing exceptionally well," he said.

Makinen steps up World Championship bid

JYVASKYLA, Finland (R) - Tommi Makinen took a significant step towards becoming world rally champion with a brilliant victory in the 1000 Lakes Rally on Monday.

Mitsubishi driver Makinen stopped experienced fellow Finn Juha Kankkunen in his tracks on the final day of the 1,452-km rally, doubling his lead on the first two decisive stages.

"This was the most difficult win - three days at 125 per cent effort," said Makinen, whose success completed his 1,000 Lakes hat-trick.

Kankkunen was runner-up in his Toyota as Finland's Jarmo Kytola produced a remarkable drive to finish third in his Ford.

Swede Kenneth Eriksson kept Subaru in the hunt for the manufacturers' title with fifth-place in spite of a gearbox problem that nearly forced him off the road close to the end of the event.

Makinen's and Mitsubishi's positions were



Finnish Tommi Makinen drives his Mitsubishi in the 1,000 Lakes Rally World Championship (Reuters photo) strengthened by the late retirement of Spain's Carlos Sainz when his Ford gearbox failed. Makinen, with 95 points, now leads his nearest championship rival, Sainz, by 32 points.

Date beats Sanchez Vicario to win Toshiba Classic title

CARLSBAD, California (R) - "The force" was with Kimiko Date on Sunday, taking her to a 3-6 6-3 6-0 victory over Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and the championship of the Toshiba Tennis Classic.

"It's difficult to say if I was playing my best tennis in the last two sets," said Date through a translator. "Of course in the third set I was playing my best. But in the second set, I was just playing by some unknown driving force behind from me."

Whatever it was, "I am happy to win," said the bashful Date after notching her second title of the year along with the \$79,500 winner's check in the one-hour-50-minute come-from-behind victory.

Date began slowly, spotting Sanchez Vicario a quick one-set lead before turning up her deadly ground game to beat the world's No. 2 ranked player for only the second time in 10 meetings.

"When I was in good form there's a certain rhythm and form. But today it was something different."

After finishing runner-up here to co-world No. 1 Steffi Graf, Sanchez Vicario was trying to make the third time a charm. But Date's scintillating play dismissed that hope.

"I think always when you get so close and you have chances to win and you lose, you feel little disappointed. I think Kimiko played really well. It's not that I lost the match, I guess that she won the match."

Date said she was determined after the setback. "I thought, if I can enjoy playing and stick to my game plan, and play my best tennis, I

knew I had enough chances."

Date quickly levelled the match taking the second set after racing out to a 5-1 lead against the feisty Spaniard.

She assumed control and dominated in the decisive set, cracking flat, searing forehands, sharply angled backhands, powerful overheads and deft drop volleys which kept the cat-like Spaniard off-balance.

"You know it's coming hard but it's the angles that she makes," explained Sanchez Vicario of Date's lethal ground game. "She plays really close the lines but she makes the wide angles. The ball is sliding even more, so you have to make either a winner on the other side because it leaves the court open for her."

"It's so hard to read where she's going to hit. That's the most difficult thing from her game. It's hard to see where the ball is going to come."

Sanchez Vicario employed everything in her arsenal but Japan's top player was unstoppable in third set, drilling 15 of her 42 winners, while committing just five of her 32 unforced errors.

"I couldn't go to the net because she was hitting so many winners and so many angles," said the dispirited Spaniard. "I have to go for the shots and I make so many unforced errors. But she makes winners, that's her game. Either it can go in or long. Today she made the right moment the good shots."

For Sanchez Vicario it stretched her finals futility to five this summer following runner-up finishes at the French Open and Wimbledon to co-world No. 1 Graf, the Olympic gold medal to American Lindsay Davenport and the Canadian Open to Monica Seles, the world's other top player.

Money pulls apart U.S. Olympic gymnastics champions

NEW YORK (AFP) - A big-money battle to organize a tour for the U.S. Olympic champion gymnastics team has pulled apart the so-called "magnificent seven" who won gold in Atlanta.

Five members of the U.S. team - Shannon Miller, Dominique Moceanu, Amanda Borden, Jaycie Phelps and Dominique Dawes - have signed with Bill Graham productions for a 33-city tour set to begin September 19.

Each participant would receive \$3,500 to \$5,000 per show under the deal.

But Chicago White Sox owner Eddie Einhorn, a long-time promoter, has gathered other baseball team owners to offer each gymnast one million dollars to participate on the Magic Tour, a show that will include the Russian gymnastics team.

Participants on the Magic Tour would receive \$10,000 to \$20,000 a show. But for the U.S. gymnasts

to each receive one million dollars, all seven must join the tour.

"Sbame on these people for breaking up the Olympic spirit," said Steve Nunn, Miller's coach. "Every shark wants to get involved now that arenas are filling up to see them."

The two undecided are Amy Chow and Kerri Strug, whose vaulting heroics to seal the victory made her one of the games' top heroes.

Both are expected to decide this week, although Magic officials say they have a verbal promise from Strug.

Leigh Steinberg, Strug's agent, said she will participate in at least some of the Graham shows even if she goes for the better money deal.

"One of Kerri's goals is to have the whole team together," Steinberg said. Strug skipped a U.S. television appearance with her

teammates to appear on a rival show. But the original battle for television has moved into the financial realm. Dawes is trying to opt out of her deal with Graham.

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Ekeus to demand unrestricted access to suspected Iraqi sites

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Senior U.N. envoy Rolf Ekeus arrived in Baghdad on Monday to ask Iraqi officials to stop preventing his inspectors from searching sites suspected of hiding banned weapons, U.N. officials said.

The U.N. Security Council last Friday demanded that Iraq provide complete and unrestricted access to its sites, warning that only full cooperation could lead to the lifting of a crippling six-year oil and trade embargo.

Iraq has blocked U.N. inspectors several times since it pledged in June to grant them unrestricted access to military sites, with

the latest incident occurring on August 17, U.N. officials said.

Mr. Ekeus, who was to begin his talks later Monday with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz and other Iraqi officials, will "have intensive talks which will focus on all subjects," a U.N. source said.

The former Swedish diplomat who chairs the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on Disarming Iraq, is staying at a government guest house here during his two-day visit, a U.N. official said.

Mr. Ekeus arrived here from UNSCOM's rear base in Bahrain with Nikita Smidovich, a Russian mili-

listic missile expert.

The U.N. Security Council said Friday that Iraq's behaviour was "a gross violation of its obligations" under U.N. resolutions. The statement was meant to "arm Ekeus with a message to Iraq not to mess with UNSCOM," diplomats added.

The visit is the second by Mr. Ekeus in about two months. In June the two sides agreed to hold periodic meetings to accelerate implementation of the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire terms, requiring that Iraq rid itself of nuclear, chemical, and biological arms as well as its stocks of long-range mis-

Muasher refutes charge government acted unilaterally over food subsidy

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Information Minister Marwan Muasher on Monday refuted contentions that the government had acted unilaterally when it announced the increase in the price of bread and remodelling of subsidy and said the executive authority had explored all possible avenues but was unable to arrive at a common formula acceptable to all.

The minister, in his weekly press briefing, also disclosed that consumption of bread in Jordan had gone down by 35 per cent since the increase in prices took effect on Aug. 13.

The decline, Dr. Muasher explained, clearly showed that the one of key goals of the move to raise prices and remodel the subsidy system — averting wastage and smuggling — was being achieved.

The minister, rejecting suggestions that the government had acted arbitrarily in adopting the move, noted that the executive authority had extensively discussed the issue with Parliament and all sectors of the society, including professional associations, unions and local leaders.

Presenting a chronology of the meetings that Prime Minister Abdul Karim

Kabariti himself as well as other members of the Council of Ministers and senior department officials held with representatives of the various sectors of the society since July, Dr. Muasher said:

"We discussed the issue in public for 40 days but could not reach a common ground. We consulted everyone and asked for viable alternatives but no one could provide any acceptable option."

The minister noted that a special parliamentary committee had come up with proposals, but said they were not a viable option. "If anything," he said, "adopting those proposals would have meant an expenditure of JD 113 million as subsidy for bread, whereas what we were seeking was a reduction from the present JD 95 million."

As such, the government had no option but to adopt its own programme which was based on a thorough study of the subsidy system and the impact of the increase in the prices of bread on the society, the minister said.

The government announced the price increases on Aug. 12, two days after Mr. Kabariti and the special parliamentary panel met but could not agree on the issue.

On Aug. 14, one day after the increases took effect, the Lower House of Parliament voted 29-23 against the proposals of the committee. A group of 23 opposition deputies boycotted the session in a move that observers described as self-defeating. In any event, even if the House were to adopt the committee's proposals, it would not have been binding since the government had exercised its prerogative to adopt administrative decisions when it announced the increase in prices.

Dr. Muasher on Monday emphasised that the removal of direct subsidy was an issue that could not be put off. "Every day was costing the Treasury around half a million dollars," he said.

If Jordan did not adopt the move to remove subsidies, according to Dr. Muasher, it would have meant an additional external debt of \$160 million a year for imports of wheat at a time when the government sought to reduce the Kingdom's indebtedness.

"Those debts will have to be obtained at commercial terms," said Dr. Muasher, noting that no external loans were available for any purpose other than development.

"Donors will also balk at extending aid to Jordan

when they see that their contributions are being spent on subsidies for food," he said.

More significantly, it would have also meant the suspension of the economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the resultant halt to all foreign loans to the Kingdom as well as a demand for the immediate payment of all of its foreign debts, Dr. Muasher pointed out.

"That would have put us in a much graver and critical situation than what we are facing today," he added.

The minister reiterated the government's resolve to continue to implement the economic restructuring programme. "This is a comprehensive programme," he said. "The government is committed to the basic guidelines and objectives that were outlined in (His Majesty King Hussein's) letter of designation, the prime minister's acceptance letter and the government's policy statement to Parliament."

"The government is not taking piecemeal steps and measures," he said. "We know where we are going and the course we have to take."

Japan urges Israel to follow path of peace and pledges economic reward

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda urged Israel's right-wing government on Monday to make progress towards Middle East peace, dangling the prospect of closer economic ties with Tokyo as a reward.

"I expressed Japan's expectations that Israel will move the peace process forward," he told reporters after meeting Foreign Minister David Levy.

Calling the current peace process the "only option we have," Mr. Ikeda said: "Advancing the peace process in the region will of course bring more development of the ties between (Israel and Japan) in the spheres of the economy and culture."

Mr. Ikeda invited Mr. Levy to pay an official visit to Japan. Mr. Levy told reporters he had accepted the invitation, but no date was set.

"With Japan, we want to continue to act to advance

mutual interests and the peace process," Mr. Levy said.

On Sunday in self-ruled Gaza, the Japanese foreign minister said he had invited Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to visit Japan from Sept. 10 to 13.

Mr. Ikeda, who has visited Jordan, Egypt and Syria during his tour, was scheduled to hold talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu later on Monday before flying to Hong Kong.

"I will convey what I heard from President Yasser Arafat concerning the peace process, especially the difficulties the Palestinian people are facing and President Arafat's commitment to peace," Mr. Ikeda said on Sunday. Japan is the main donor nation aiding the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and a participant in multilateral Middle East peace talks.

Mr. Levy said Mr. Ikeda had passed on his "impressions" from his visit to Syria, but the Israeli foreign minister did not elaborate.

A Japanese foreign ministry official said Mr. Ikeda would stress to Israeli officials that Tokyo backed pursuit of the peace process on the basis of land-for-peace and would press for the immediate lifting of the closure of the Palestinian territories.

Japan has sought to contribute to the Middle East peace process primarily through economic assistance, including more than \$200 million in aid to PNA over the past two years and pledges of another \$200 million by 1997.

Mr. Ikeda announced Sunday after talks with Mr. Arafat in Gaza an extra \$11.6 million in aid to the Palestinians, which will go towards financing municipal elections and agricultural products.

Opposition appeals to King over detainees, assails government

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 10 opposition political parties on Monday sent a memorandum to His Majesty King Hussein appealing for a speedy release of all detainees held since last week's riots in southern Jordan and to put an end to what they called "intimidation attitude" on the part of the government in dealing with the political parties and the Jordanian people.

"Acting from a national stand and with the purpose of protecting national interests, we submit to Your Majesty our views with regard to the political detainees held since the riots over the government's plans to remodel the subsidies on bread and fodder," said the letter.

"While failing to create the appropriate conditions to ensure the success of a general dialogue over the subsidy question, the government unilaterally declared its own decisions that sent the prices of all commodities suddenly soaring," the letter asserted.

"The government not only totally disregarded other parties' views but also took measures to prevent people, political groups and other institutions to express their opinion in a peaceful and democratic way," it said.

"We had warned the government in different forms and through Parliament against such measures and announced that the government would bear the responsibility of any consequences but the prime minister has repeated that he bears full responsibility," continued the letter.

"The prime minister is now escaping this responsibility and placing it on the shoulders of the detainees, who include members of political parties, and also on external parties," it said.

"When the prime minister and his advisers realised that the majority of the Jordanian people and Parliament oppose the government's subsidy plans, they adopted a confrontational behaviour with the people by declaring an assault on the Jordanian citizens in various ways... through the media, through arrests... through a ban on free expression... through military manifestations and through other provocations

and finally by dispersing demonstrators with force and cutting water and electricity supply," added the letter.

Saying that the government was continuing to arrest people in connection with the incidents in the south, the letter said that such procedures "do not contribute to solving the problem but rather to complicating it further."

"It is our duty to stress that our political parties have been spearheading efforts with regard to the bread and animal feed issue as well as other issues. Our orientation, our stands and our activities are well-known to the government because we do not act in the dark. We have been working collectively and projecting the views of the general public. We would like to reaffirm to Your Majesty that the Karak incidents are known to us in detail and we have sufficient proof that it was the government that was behind provoking the people," said the letter.

"At the same time, we hereby express concern over the bad and unprecedented treatment of the detainees and are concerned over the damage to the democratic process in view of the arrest of political party members and also over the government's attitude towards the political parties that prevent them from expressing their views," added the letter.

As our earlier warnings to the government went unheeded, we feel it is our duty to renew the warning against what is coming ahead. The detainees are Jordanian citizens and members of our parties and we by no means directed them to carry out sabotage acts or instigated them to sedition. Nor did we arm people except with awareness and determination to defend their rights. Arriving at the aspired goals can only be attained through positive dialogue and while detainees are free," it said.

The letter concluded: "We are confident that you can put matters right, guarantee the rights of all people, enhance political pluralism, and free all detainees and, above all, halt the intimidation of the people by the executive authority."

U.N.: Eritrean pullout from Lesser Hanish in 2 or 3 days

UNITED NATIONS (AFP)

— Yemen has agreed to an Eritrean withdrawal from a disputed strategic Red Sea island in the next two or three days, a U.N. spokeswoman said here Monday.

Spokeswoman Sylvana Foa said at a news briefing here that U.N. political affairs officials "expect Eritrea to withdraw in a matter of two or three days."

She added that "Yemen has been duly notified and is in agreement."

In Aden earlier Monday, Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh warned that his country would "react forcefully and firmly" if Eritrea failed to withdraw immediately from the disputed Red Sea island of Lesser Hanish.

"The deadline expires today, Monday, for Eritrea to withdraw from Lesser Hanish, as the French mediators had informed us," Mr. Saleh said.

Ms. Foa said that U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali continued to monitor the situation and was working closely with the French who

are brokering the dispute.

The dispute over the Hanish archipelago, whose sovereignty has never been established by international treaties, degenerated into armed conflict last December when Eritrea captured the island of Greater Hanish.

France secured a May 21 accord in which Yemen and Eritrea pledged to refrain from hostilities and seek international arbitration.

Yemen accused Eritrea of violating the agreement by invading Lesser Hanish, which with the other islands commands access to the Bab Al Mandab straits between the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

The U.N. Security Council last Thursday called on the 50 Eritrean troops, who have occupied Lesser Hanish since August 10, to withdraw immediately.

In a letter released here Monday, Eritrea accused Yemen of "irresponsible acts of provocation" on August 19 by firing on the Eritrean forces on Lesser Hanish from two boats offshore.

Doctor arrested in Egypt circumcision death case

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police have arrested and charged with negligence a doctor who circumcised a 14-year-old girl who later died, security sources said on Monday.

They said police picked up Dr. Rabie Ibrahim Mahgoub on Sunday at a friend's house where he had been hiding since circumcising Amina Abdul Hamid Mohammad on Saturday. Government newspapers said the girl died of haemorrhage.

Amina's father, who earlier told police he took his daughter to a private hospital, now says the doctor circumcised Amina at home for a fee of 20 pounds (\$6), the sources said.

Female circumcision involves the removal of some or all of the external genitalia. Some human rights activists prefer to call the practice female genital mutilation for the severe form it often takes. Side effects include haemorrhage, shock and sexual dysfunction.

Amina's father told police that after his daughter did not wake up from the procedure he twice went to seek the doctor's advice. The doctor told him Amina was

still under the effects of the anaesthetic he had given her, the sources said.

Police have released the doctor on bail of 500 pounds (\$47). It is not clear when he will be tried.

According to research in 1995 by a national task force made up of women and human rights activists, doctors and religious scholars, at least 80 per cent of Egyptian women underwent the operation during their girlhood.

Health Minister Ismail Sallam last month banned female circumcision operations at public hospitals.

Women and human rights groups have urged the government to ban the practice outright.

The Egyptian Human Rights Organisation (EHRO), meanwhile, denounced the death of Amina "an ugly crime" and urged the authorities to ban the practice of female circumcision.

"We remind everyone of the decision taken several weeks ago by the health minister, a decision we welcomed and... call for more similar decisions to put an end to female circumcision in Egypt," EHRO said.

Critic of Syria emerges as big winner in N. Lebanon

TRIPOLI (AFP) — A Christian critic of Syria's presence in Lebanon won the most votes in legislative elections in the north of the country, according to first results on Monday.

The results, with more than half of the ballot boxes counted, also showed a sharp fall in support for former Prime Minister Omar Karami in his home town of Tripoli.

Christian leader Boutros Harb secured 51,110 votes and ranked first in Sunday's elections in northern Lebanon, a region which has traditionally been under Syrian influence.

Mr. Harb, who, according to sources close to the ballot count, attracted an equal number of Muslim and Christian votes, is known to be an adamant critic of Syria's influence.

He did not take part in 1992 legislative elections boycotted by the majority of the Christian community which rejected holding the polls with the presence of 35,000 Syrian troops on Lebanese soil.

"The people have proven

themselves to have a free will," Mr. Harb said of his strong showing.

Results from 738 ballot boxes out of 1,306, showed Mr. Karami, with 36,046 votes, coming in fourth in Tripoli, a traditional stronghold of his family. Final results are due on Tuesday, the Interior Ministry said.

His rival and cousin Ahmad Karami was second behind Mr. Harb with 42,333 votes. Analysts said Omar Karami's poor showing were due mainly to his harsh opposition towards current Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, who succeeded Mr. Karami in office after 1992 street protests.

Ahmad Karami, meanwhile, focused his campaign on the popularity of the government's infrastructure and post-war reconstruction works in Tripoli, which is mainly Sunni Muslim like Mr. Hariri. Several figures on a list headed by Omar Karami were losers, apart from Suleiman Farjish, a Christian ally of Syria, and billionaire businessman Issam Fares.

Group denies link to TWA crash

DAMASCUS (AFP) — A Syrian-based headline Palestinian group on Monday denied any link to the mysterious explosion of TWA Flight 800 off New York last month which killed all 230 people on board.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) described as "baseless" a report in the New York Times that it was one of several Middle East groups who met in Iran ahead of the July 17 explosion to plot attacks.

"This information was concocted by U.S. intelligence services... and shows the confusion surrounding the investigation" into the explosion on the New York to Paris flight, the group said in a statement.

The group headed by Ahmad Jibril that fiercely rejects the U.S.-sponsored Middle East

peace process said it was "opposed to attacks against planes and civilians."

"The American people is not our enemy but the American administration is hostile to our nation and backs the Zionist enemy," it added. The New York Times said Saturday that the PFLP-GC was one of several Iranian-backed organisations which met in Tehran several weeks before the plane crash.

The paper, citing intelligence sources, said the groups involved and the meeting itself were among a number of leads federal investigators were following up.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said Friday that tiny traces of explosive material were found on wreckage from the TWA flight but said the evidence is insufficient to conclude a bomb brought the plane down.

Iran says it is working for peace in north Iraq

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran on Monday denied that it had intervened in fighting between Kurdish factions in northern Iraq and said it was trying to reduce the tensions there.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati was quoted by the Iran News as saying that Iran is "the only country which can make peace" between the warring groups.

"In the past we have played such a role with success and we will try again to ease tension. We are ready to offer our good offices to make peace there," he added.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz Saturday accused Iran of intervening on behalf of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) against the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) in the latest round of fighting between the groups which broke out on Aug. 17.

The two Kurdish factions have jointly controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the allied forces imposed a "no-fly" zone on the region after the Gulf war in 1991.

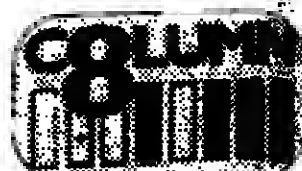
But their power-sharing agreement broke down in May 1994, and around 2,200 people have been killed in the ensuing conflict.

The KDP said Sunday Iranian troops had shelled KDP positions from Iraqi territory on behalf of the PUK.

The Iranian intervention came "after the KDP refused to let Iranian troops enter the areas under its control" during their offensive against Iranian Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq at the end of July, the KDP charged.

The PUK accuses the KDP of collaborating with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Both the KDP and PUK deny each other's claims.

Mr. Velayati also poured cold water on the United States' new peace initiative in northern Iraq.



Chelsea makes political debut on Clinton train trip

CHILLICOTHE, Ohio (R)

— Chelsea Clinton, until now carefully shielded from the exposure of public life, made her political debut Sunday on her father's whistlestop train trip. Chelsea, 16, was at President Bill Clinton's side as he rode the rails through parts of West Virginia, Kentucky and Ohio, and was introduced at every stop. She even worked ropes, shaking hands with excited fans.

Hillary Rodham Clinton saw her husband and daughter off on the trip in Huntington, West Virginia, and then went on to Chicago to begin a rigorous Democratic convention schedule. Asked if Chelsea would have a prominent role in the campaign, White House spokesman Mike McCurry said: "She'll do what she did today when she can. She has to go back to school." The president's daughter is going into her senior year of high school at Sidwell Friends School, a private school in Washington, Mr. McCurry said. Chelsea has asked to go on the train trip and attend the convention where her father will be renominated, but said her exposure did not signal the start of a new political career. Chelsea "is a very poised young lady, but she's not that much interested in politics," the spokesman said.

"The government is not taking piecemeal steps and measures," he said. "We know where we are going and the course we have to take."

Yeltsin's wife has kidney operation

MOSCOW (R) — Naina Yeltsin, wife of the Russian president, has undergone "a planned operation" on her left kidney and is in a satisfactory condition, ITAR-TASS news agency said Monday. TASS quoted the Kremlin Press Service as saying the operation took place Saturday in the Central Clinical Hospital which treats top officials. Mrs. Yeltsin would be released from hospital in a few days.

Doctor Sergei Mironov told TASS Naina was "in permanent contact" with her husband and two daughters, Yelena and Tatyana. The state of health of Boris Yeltsin, who had two heart attacks last year, has been the centre of media and market speculation after he won a second term in office in the July 3 election run-off and all but disappeared from the public eye. A presidential spokesman said Monday Mr. Yeltsin was in Moscow but could give no details about his agenda or whether meetings were planned.

Drunken Swede crashes shopping trolley

STOCKHOLM (R) — A drunken Swede who commandeered a shopping trolley and collided head-on with a car is to be charged with careless driving, police said Monday. The 20-year-old man was travelling downhill in the southern Swedish town of Motala when his impromptu chariot hit the car at an estimated closing speed of 50 kmh (30 mph), Police Inspector Lennart Johansson told Reuters.

Mr. Johansson said the man faced a careless driving charge but it was by no means certain the charge would stick. "He was certainly careless, but I suppose it's debatable whether he was driving. He was rather drunk, and his trolley wasn't showing the appropriate lights," Mr. Johansson said.

The man was released from hospital with minor injuries and a serious hangover.

Bahrain seeks

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King

HM visit

There are